

Elin Elisofon
Vinalhaven Housing Initiative
LD 2212

INTRODUCTION: Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the joint standing committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the joint standing committee of Housing and Economic Development. My name is Elin Elisofon, I live on Vinalhaven and I am the president of the Vinalhaven Housing Initiative, a nonprofit creating affordable year-round rental housing to sustain our island community for more generations to come.

Our community is losing our multi-generational islanders due to lack of affordable housing, our elders are living in homes where they cannot safely "age in place", among life-long friends and family.

We have single mothers in need of safe, secure housing so they and their children can prosper and reach their highest potential.

Funding to create housing is extremely limited, especially small scale developments appropriate for off-shore island communities.

We appreciate the ADU laws which have been enacted, but we need funding to make them a reality.

We were so excited to hear Governor Mills announce the multiple housing objectives in her budget. Please make them a reality for our hard-working communities so in need of financial support for housing, which supports and sustains our year-round communities.

With gratitude for your consideration of our community needs.