



February 17, 2026

**Subject: Support for Housing Investments in Maine's Supplemental Budget**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Emmy Ham, and I serve as Executive Director of the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast (WHC). On behalf of our organization, I am writing in support of the proposed investments in housing included in Maine's supplemental budget.

The Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast is a nonprofit organization that works closely with communities across Southern Maine and the New Hampshire Seacoast to advance diverse, attainable housing options so that the regional workforce can afford to call this region home. We see firsthand how housing shortages affect workforce stability, economic growth, and community wellbeing throughout our region.

Maine's housing shortage represents an urgent economic and community challenge. With a need for approximately 80,000 homes by 2030 and current production at roughly half the required pace, the gap is placing increasing pressure on working families, employers, and older adults seeking to remain in their communities. Housing costs are affecting essential workers—including healthcare providers, educators, and service workers—and limiting employers' ability to recruit and retain talent. Stable, attainable housing is critical infrastructure that supports strong communities, a reliable workforce, and long-term economic resilience.

The proposed \$70 million investment represents a comprehensive and strategic response to this crisis. By supporting housing production, preservation, homelessness response, and aging-in-place initiatives, these funds will help increase supply, stabilize vulnerable households, and leverage additional federal and private resources to accelerate impact. Investments in rural housing, homeownership opportunities, middle-income housing, and community implementation capacity will help Maine communities grow sustainably while ensuring residents can remain rooted where they live and work.

Housing is foundational to healthy communities and a strong economy. These investments will help ensure Maine families, workers, and seniors have access to safe and attainable homes. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support the housing investments included in the supplemental budget proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Emmy Ham  
Executive Director

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Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast  
LD 2212

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