

Mathew Davis

LD 2212

Mathew Davis
Bangor, Maine

Dear,

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Mathew Davis, I go to Bangor High School and I live in Bangor, Maine

I am here to support investments in housing in the proposed supplemental budget. This will help Maine young people and families build a future here in Maine. Right now, we can't afford to do that with rising housing costs—even when working full time in entry-level jobs.

Maine needs 80,000 homes by 2030. To reach that goal, the state must build about 8,500 to 9,300 homes per year, but we're currently producing only about 4,800 homes per year — roughly half of what's needed. That gap affects all of us.

Housing is not a side issue. Housing is infrastructure. It is as essential to Maine's future as roads, broadband, and energy because it determines where people can live, work, and build a life.

This shortage is now a statewide economic threat. When workers can't find homes they can afford, employers can't hire or expand. Teachers, healthcare workers, first responders, childcare staff, and young families are being priced out or forced into long commutes. Rural Maine is not immune — limited supply and aging housing stock make even small increases hit hard.

Maine is also one of the oldest states in the country. Older adults need safe, affordable options to age in place. Without them, more seniors are pushed into higher-cost care or forced to leave their communities.

The \$70 million proposal makes smart investments:

- \$55 million for new housing production, including rural rentals, affordable homeownership, middle-income housing, mobile home park expansion, and leveraging federal housing tax credits.
- \$15 million for proven programs, including emergency housing relief, aging-in-place upgrades, and support for communities implementing zoning reforms.

These investments don't just build housing — they leverage federal and private dollars, multiply impact, and create long-term stability. Building housing lasts for generations of Maine people.

Please support the investments in housing included within the budget proposal. Your decisions today will impact my future and the future of young people across Maine. Thank you.