

Testimony in support of LD 2212

To: Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

From: Isabelle Rogers

Date: February 19th, 2026

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 Isabelle Rogers, I'm a resident of Starks and a community organizer with JustME for JustUS, a youth-led organization that bridges divides through community service in rural Maine. I am testifying in support of LD 2212.

Growing up and living in rural western Maine, I have personally been affected by housing insecurity within my lifetime. Through my experience, I can confidently confirm that the impacts of not having a place to live can negatively affect one's future, career, and the ability to navigate everyday life. No one should have to endure the stress of having nowhere to live, or struggle to afford to stay in their own community. Working-class and low-income Mainers are the most affected by housing insecurity, however, lack of housing is a state and class-wide issue. Affordable housing provides workforce stability, healthier communities, and the opportunity for Maine families to thrive.

As a young person, I want to stay and work in Maine, the state I grew up in and am proud to be from. I see increasing numbers of my peers choosing to leave Maine due to the high cost of living and lack of workforce. Our rural towns have limited and aging housing and rental options, and many are not affordable to working-class and low-income people.

LD 2212 will support investments in housing within the proposed supplemental budget through funding the Rural Affordable Rental Program, supporting development in rural areas across the state, and improving Maine's existing housing programs.

I urge you to support LD 2212 to promote the inclusion of housing within the budget proposal. Your decisions today will impact my future, the future of working Mainers, and communities all across our state.

Thank you,

Isabelle Rogers