

Phoebe Rogers  
Starks  
LD 2212

Testimony in support of LD 2212, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Provide Funding for Affordable and Low-income Housing Programs

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 Phoebe Rogers, I am a resident of Starks and young person of Somerset County. I am part of a youth organization JustME For JustUS, and am writing in support to LD 2212.

Maine's housing shortage is now a statewide economic threat. Growing up, many families including mine were affected with the increased housing crisis and inflation, desperate to find a one room apartment or rental, which was non existent. This is still an ongoing crisis effecting individuals of all ages, particularly low income residents. The housing market has been a common problem. Locals are struggling to find affordable homes and rentals, pay rent and provide for their families and basic needs. Maine is one of the oldest states in the country, and seniors on fixed incomes need affordable housing options. Without safe housing and repairs, more seniors are pushed into higher-cost care or away from their communities.

Housing should not be a privilege but a priority. With stable housing, communities and healthy family relationships are built, children can learn while feeling a sense of belonging, and Maine can grow without pushing out longtime residents.

Maine is a place we call home and everyone deserves to have a roof over their head and a place to call their own.

For all the above reasons, please support the investments in housing included within the budget proposal. Your decisions today will impact my future and surrounding communities. Thank you.

Sincerely  
Phoebe Rogers  
Resident of Starks, Maine