

To: Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the Committee of Housing and Economic Development

From: Akouvi Komedja

Date: February 19, 2026

Re: Testimony in support of LD 2212: An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

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 Akouvi Komedja. I am a resident of Orono, a senior at Orono High School, and a rural youth organizer at Just Me for Just Us, a rural youth nonprofit. I am writing in support of LD 2212: An Act Making Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027.

As a youth, I constantly worry about my ability to afford housing in my future. For many years, I have seen the housing crisis impact all types of Mainers—classmates at school, veterans, seniors, and youth. This crisis impacts Maine in a multitude of ways. Lack of housing poses a statewide economic threat, pricing out our teachers, healthcare workers, veterans, and young adults, or forcing them into long commutes.

By 2030, Maine needs 80,000 new homes to meet the current housing deficit as well as projected future needs, according to the Maine Housing Production Needs Study. Meeting this

goal would require the addition of 8,500-9,300 homes per year, but at about 4,800 homes per year, Maine is adding roughly only half of the amount of homes needed; without action, Maine's communities will continue to be threatened. Stable housing in our state would allow families to put down roots, encourage economic growth, and allow population growth without pushing out longtime and senior residents.

For all the above reasons, I urge you to vote ought to pass on LD 2212.

Sincerely,

Akouvi Komedja