

Robert Olney  
Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation  
LD 2212

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 Robert Olney, I am the Chair of the Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation. I live in Freeport. My son, who is a commercial lobsterman and his family are year-round residents on Isle au Haut. I am writing to support investments in housing in the proposed supplemental budget.

The Isle au Haut Community Development Corporation (ICDC) is a not-for-profit organization that provides affordable rental housing and low interest business loans to year-round residents on unabridged Isle au Haut in Knox County. In our 35 year history, Maine State funding dedicated to affordable housing through grants and forgivable loans has been essential in allowing us to build and renovate several homes and apartments all now currently being rented by community members, all of whom are fully employed and providing volunteer capacity in town government.

Coastal island towns are being severely impacted by the lack of 4-season homes available to residents at an affordable price. Isle au Haut is no exception. Without housing, it is not possible for average Maine families to start their lives and build equity in the communities they wish to live and work. MSHA housing dollars help us at ICDC provide safe, affordable housing while allowing our neighbors to build equity, keep kids in school, perform civic duties and sustain a year-round community.

Please support the investments in housing included within the budget proposal.  
Thank you.