



Raise-Op Housing Cooperative  
145 Pierce Street, Office 102  
Lewiston, ME 04240  
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2/19/2026

## Testimony in favor 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 Craig Saddlemire, and I am the Development Organizer for the Raise-Op Housing Cooperative in Lewiston, Maine. Founded in 2008, we are Maine's oldest, urban, multi-unit housing cooperative. Today, we own 5 apartment buildings, home to 33 different households, and 90 residents. We also provide technical assistance to new housing cooperatives and seek to promote more resident ownership of housing throughout Maine. We believe it's important to have a comprehensive approach to addressing Maine's urgent housing needs. We are very encouraged by the Governor's proposed \$70 million spending package on housing, which makes critical investments in housing production and housing services.

We urge the passage of LD 2212, but we offer the following considerations:

- Please allocate full funding for the Eviction Prevention Program, which has been very successful at helping to stabilize tenants at risk of losing their homes, and which currently cannot accept new applications due to lack of funds;
- Please ensure the shelter funding as proposed remains intact, and that the funding mechanism for shelter operations through LD 2124 is also included;
- Please raise the revenue required to fund these essential housing programs through taxes on the ultra-rich by including bills LD 1089, 229, and 1879 in the budget.

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

Please be in touch with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Saddlemire". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig Saddlemire  
Cooperative Development Organizer  
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