

LD 226

To Chairpersons Teresa Pierce, Traci Gere, and the members of the Housing Committee:

- My name is Bruce Blackmer from Dedham, Maine.
- I am on the Executive Committee of the Greater Bangor Apartment Owners and Managers Association, GBAOMA.
- I am also a member of the Legislative Council working closely with, Attorney and Lobbyist, Dan Bernier representing landlords and property owners in, but not limited to, Waterville, Augusta, Portland, South Portland, Lewiston, Auburn, and Bangor areas.
- I have been a landlord since 1972. I have owned a 50-unit trailer park , multi-units, and single-family homes. At one time, I managed 65 units. I have mostly provided affordable housing to low-income tenants.
- **I am speaking in SUPPORT of this Bill.**
- I am of the understanding that Jason Bird, of the Bangor area Penquis, is rebuilding a motel at the cost of \$133,000.00 per unit. If the proposed 100 million dollars, each year for the next two years, could be used at a cost of \$150,000.00 per unit, that would be 1,322 units.
- As a representative of a landlord group, I would hope that some of these funds would go to existing smaller landlords to expand their housing units. Otherwise, Maine may have only public housing and out of state corporate landlords in the future.. Homelessness is a big problem, public and private housing working together is needed to provide housing security for our residents.
- **I am here to ask you to SUPPORT LD 226**
- Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion. I would be happy to answer any questions.

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