

LD 470

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-unit, 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 a member of a landlord group that strives to inform and educate. Each year we invite the lead advocate from the City of Bangor to come and give a presentation on the irreversible harm of lead poisoning, mostly affecting children.
- Providing funding to reduce lead poisoning is a worthwhile cause. I feel priority should be given to landlords who accept vouchers. I know of some landlords who are hesitant to take vouchers because there may be lead in their building, and they cannot afford to abate the lead problem.
- Maybe it would encourage more landlords and property managers to take vouchers if they could receive financial assistance with the lead abatement cost. This would provide more rental opportunities for those with children in need of safe housing for their families.
- **I am here to ask you to SUPPORT LD 470**
- Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion. I would be happy to answer any questions.

Bruce Blackmer
14 Enterprise Drive
Dedham ME 04429
email: antsblack1@gmail.com
phone: 207-735-5658