



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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*Testimony of Rep. Rebecca Millett supporting*  
**LD 1867, An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural  
Development Authority**  
*Before the Joint Select Committee on Housing*

Good morning, Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and other esteemed members of the Housing Committee. My name is Rebecca Millet, and I represent House District 123, most of Cape Elizabeth. I am submitting testimony in support of **LD 1867, An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority**.

We all are aware of the housing crisis in the state and how it impacts each of our districts. According to the Portland Press Herald, “41% of tenants in Maine were burdened by the cost of rent, with almost 20 percent being ‘severely’ cost-burdened.”<sup>1</sup> Those that are cost burdened also have a limited ability to spend on other necessities beyond rent.

I strongly believe that LD 1867 provides an important solution to this crisis. This initiative is another impactful investment that we can make to support Maine now and future generations of Maine families.

Maine families would be protected by having mixed-income housing at a fixed rental rate and by permanent public ownership, preventing renters from being forced out of their homes by speculative investors, as happens when other publicly funded projects return to market rates. The rent that the authority receives can cover the costs of the properties, and any additional funds can then be reinvested into the program to provide even more housing, which makes this model of housing sustainable and beneficial to all of Maine.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pressherald.com/2022/06/23/nearly-half-of-all-mainers-cannot-afford-rent-new-study-says/>

LD 1867 would have other benefits, because when renters are no longer over-burdened by how much they spend on housing, they will have more money to spend on other necessary household costs to support themselves and rely less on public benefits. We also know that stable housing is crucial for individuals and families to reach their full potential and thrive.

The rental crisis is an urgent issue in Maine, and this is a sustainable solution aimed at ensuring all Mainers have access to stable, affordable housing. Everyone deserves to have a roof over their head, and the time for action is now. I encourage you all to vote in favor of LD 1867. Thank you for your consideration.