

Testimony of Peter N Connell – LD 949 “An Act to Clarify Licensing for Manufactured Housing Communities”

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Housing and Economic Development Committee, my name is Pete Connell, I live in South Portland, ME, and I represent The Manufactured Housing Association of Maine (MHAM). I am testifying in support of LD 949 “An Act to Clarify Licensing for Manufactured Housing Communities.”

My background is Housing. I was a retailer of Manufactured and Modular Homes for over 20 years and following for close to another 20 years, was President and Owner of Oxford Homes, a manufacturer of Manufactured and Modular Housing. This was a company that built over 8,000 homes with well over half for Maine people. I also represented manufacturers on the Maine Manufactured Housing Board (under the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation) for over 17 years as well.

Maine Statute requires anyone who conducts, controls, manages or operates a Manufactured Housing Community to be licensed by the Manufactured Housing Board(1). The Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation establishes the fees for operating, expanding, license renewal, inspections, engineering and site plan review and for costs incurred for evaluation of a licensee’s compliance with Board rules(2).

The rules are very specific that the Manufactured Housing Board establishes the code and standards for the industry in Maine pursuant to Chapter 380 (2). The State of Maine requires that all Manufactured Housing must be compliant with the Department of Urban Development (HUD) codes and installation.

In short, the bill requires that municipalities accept the Manufactured Housing Board license issued, that the home and its installation are compliant with the Federal standards, and that no additional fees are necessary, warranted or allowed.

Thank you so much for allowing me to testify. I am available for any questions, but there are others who are licensed to follow who could provide greater insight. We will be happy to provide any additional information requested for the work session.

(1) <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/10/title10sec9082.html>

(2) <https://legislature.maine.gov/legis/statutes/10/title10sec9083.html>

(3) <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/02/chaps02.htm#385>