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Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony in Support of LD 1407: An Act to Direct the Board of Occupational Safety and Health to Develop Indoor Air Quality Standards for Buildings in the State in Which Public Sector Workers Work

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council ("MIAQC" or the "Council") is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthy, productive, and environmentally sustainable indoor environments through education, communications, and advocacy. We are a membership organization of diverse professionals who design, construct, operate, maintain, investigate and remediate buildings of all types, as well as a broad variety of public health and environmental health professionals and practitioners.

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor:

Thanks to COVID, there is an increased understanding that there are things in the indoor air that we can't see, can't smell, and can't taste, yet we know they're there and can make people sick. But it isn't just viruses that are of concern, it's all of the issues listed in the text of LD 1407, and the role that proper ventilation can play in reducing and removing them from the indoor environment *before* people get sick.

Thanks to the efforts of Representative Montell and former Representative Millett, public buildings in Maine are being systematically evaluated for radon, mold, and other contaminants. But equally important to knowing what we have in our buildings, is an understanding of where we want them to be. The strategies to manage indoor pollutants already exist in available science-based best practices and standards.

The Maine Department of Labor is already working to identify what practices and standards for public buildings make sense for Maine. We ourselves have been part of the advisory committee comprised of local, regional, and national IAQ and building professionals. But we like the added element of rulemaking in LD 1407, which we believe would promote better communication and activity to bring all our public indoor workspaces up to minimum acceptable standards.

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council can be available for the work session to answer any questions or provide further comment.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Christine G. Crocker'.

Christine G. Crocker, Executive Director
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