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THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

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Testimony in Support of LD 1167

**“Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program to Assist Nonprofit Housing Developers in
Rehabilitating Existing Aging Housing Stock for First-time Home Buyers”**

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Good afternoon Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Peggy Rotundo, and I have the distinct privilege of representing the City of Lewiston in Senate District 21. I am here today in strong support of LD 1167, “Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program to Assist Nonprofit Housing Developers in Rehabilitating Existing Aging Housing Stock for First-time Home Buyers.”

The Legislature has done so much in recent years to prioritize the creation of affordable housing in Maine. We continue to look for and find new ways to address this challenge. I am particularly excited about LL 1167, because it presents yet another model that can help first time home buyers find homes that they can afford. In rural areas of Maine and in more urban settings of the State, we have an abundance of older housing stock. The rehabilitation model proposed in LD 1167 serves not only to rehabilitate this stock, but also to provide families with the opportunity to afford to buy a home. Nonprofits have a role to play in our quest for more affordable housing. While this model proposed in the bill has shown great success in Lewiston, it is a model that can be used throughout the State. The model works wherever there is aging housing stock, helping us meet the challenge of affordable housing.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this bill and for your work to address the issue of affordable housing. I am happy to answer any questions you might have. Thank you.