



P.O. Box 2438, Augusta, Maine 04338

Telephone: 207/626-8115

Fax: 207/626-9015

E-Mail: [christy@maineindoorair.org](mailto:christy@maineindoorair.org)

Web: [www.maineindoorair.org](http://www.maineindoorair.org)

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**Maine Indoor Air Quality Council Testimony in Support of  
LD 1226: An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors**

*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 in Maine. Our efforts focus on the development of education, communications, and advocacy for safe and healthy indoor environments where Maine citizens live, work, play and learn.*

Dear Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council submits this testimony in support of LD 1226: An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors

**Testimony**

**Contractor licensing in Maine would close a life safety gap.**

- Buildings have one primary purpose: to protect people. Buildings create a habitable environment indoors when conditions outdoors are not.
- Maine currently licenses a variety of professions whose services protect the health and safety of building occupants: electricians, plumbers, architects, and engineers.
- The one profession MOST responsible for creating a safe and healthy indoor environment—the contractors that put structures together--has been curiously omitted from Maine's licensing infrastructure, leading to a gap of professional knowledge for creating built environments that won't harm people.

**As much as the Council believes contractor licensing is long overdue, we believe this bill needs to consider an education component:**

- The Council has great concern for the complete lack of minimum education standards required in order for someone to be considered a residential contractor. Construction practices have become increasingly more complex due to evolving building codes, the influx of new products, materials, and heating/cooling systems, and the need to apply building science principles for moisture, temperature, and air movement in buildings. Failure to properly manage any one of these elements can impact not only the integrity of the structure but

also the health and safety of the building occupants themselves. At a minimum, contractors should thoroughly understand the components of Maine's mandatory building code, how, when, and most importantly why, each individual code and standard applies to projects, and the basics of building science.

**MIAQC is available to help.**

The Maine Indoor Air Quality Council has been working with and providing training to members of Maine's construction community for more than 25 years. The Council would be happy to work with those tasked with creating and implementing the rules for contractor licensing, training, and compliance.

I would be to answer any questions or provide additional information to assist you at the work session.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Christine G. Crocker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" being more prominent than the last name "Crocker".

Christine G. Crocker, Executive Director

Maine Indoor Air Quality Council

Telephone: 207-626-8115; E-mail: [christy@maineindoorair.org](mailto:christy@maineindoorair.org)

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