



Solutions for a
Toxic-Free Tomorrow

Testimony of Sarah Woodbury, Vice President of Policy and Advocacy, Defend Our Health
In Support of LD 1232 "An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and
Residential Construction"
Before the Housing and Economic Development Committee
April 17, 2025

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development. My name is Sarah Woodbury. I am the vice president of policy and advocacy for Defend Our Health. Defend Our Health's mission is to make sure that everyone has equal access to safe food and drinking water, healthy homes and products that are toxic-free and climate friendly. I am here to testify in support of LD 1232 "An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction". It is our understanding that the sponsor is putting forth an amendment to the original bill. This testimony is based upon our understanding of that amendment.

Radon is a naturally occurring gas that comes from the breakdown of Uranium. It is highly radioactive and is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S. The Maine CDC reports that 12 of Maine's 16 counties are considered "high air radon areas". It is important that we improve our radon tracking data and that radon mitigation systems are installed in both residential and commercial facilities.

The amended version of LD 1232 would improve Radon testing and mitigation data to the Maine CDC by including information on new residential construction, new commercial construction, residential property testing as part of a real estate transfer, and commercial property as part of a real estate transfer. This information will help the Maine CDC have a better understanding of the radon issue.

LD 1232 will also require that all new residential and commercial construction install radon preventive features which are designed and installed by a Registered Radon Mitigator registered with the Maine State Radon Section at the Maine CDC. Additionally, building permits must include a radon section. This will provide uniformity across the state in residential and commercial construction when it comes to radon mitigation and prevention. More importantly, it will make these buildings safer for people living and working in these residential and commercial buildings.

Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. The EPA estimates about 21,000 lung cancer deaths a year are because of radon exposure. In Maine that number is around 165 deaths a year. We should be doing all we can to provide needed data to the CDC on this issue and making sure that mitigation systems are properly installed in new construction. This bill will help make that happen. We urge you to vote "ought to pass" on LD 1232.