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THE MAINE SENATE  
132nd Legislature

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**Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development on  
LD 1453, Resolve, to Establish the Innovative Factory-made Housing  
Working Group  
Friday, April 25**

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and honorable colleagues of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development: I am Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford, and I have the honor of serving 14 communities in Western Maine in the State Senate. I am proud to sponsor LD 1453, "Resolve, to Establish the Innovative Factory-made Housing Working Group."

LD 1453 is the result of a recommendation from HR&A Advisor's report, *A Roadmap for the Future of Housing Production in Maine*. Among the many recommendations offered was the creation of a group to look at innovative housing technologies.

In drafting this bill, there were many aspects and industries I had to consider but I wanted to keep the group small enough so it could still be effective. Even when I turned in the final draft to the Revisor's Office, I knew a lot of effort still had to be put in to get the working group right. I am actively working with the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to further narrow both the group's membership and scope and want to thank the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition for all the help they have provided so far.

As we know from serving on this committee, it is essential that we examine ways to both lower the cost of housing and boost its production. This working group will examine some of the new technologies being used in Maine and around the country to meet the needed demand of 84,000 new homes by 2030.

Thank you for your time and patience. I hope to have a draft amendment soon that we can use at the work session. I would be happy to answer any questions.