

Testimony of Peter N. Connell

LD 1723 “An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Manufactured Housing Communities to Prevent Excessive Rent and Fee Increases”

LD 1375 “An Act to Insure Affordability in Housing for Mobile Home Park Residents”

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee of Housing and Economic Development (the hardest working people in the 132nd Maine Legislature I might add), my name is still Pete Connell and I reside in South Portland, Me. I represent the Manufactured Housing Association of Maine (MHAM) and am here to testify in opposition to LD 1723 and LD 1375.

The Manufactured Housing Association of Maine (MHAM) is a nonprofit trade and professional association and is comprised of members that build, sell, site, install, finance Manufactured Homes (HUD Code)/Modular Housing (Maine Certified Modular Homes) and operate Manufactured Housing Communities and developments.

Established in 1986, the Manufactured Housing Association of Maine is dedicated to the protection and promotion of Maine’s Manufactured Housing Industry through legislative representation, continuing industry education, public relations and communication efforts. My colleagues and I are very pleased to being a part of this effort!

I am originally from Oxford and have been involved with the industry for over 40 years in retail and manufacturing, as well as serving on the Maine Manufactured Housing Board for nearly 20 years, representing Maine manufacturers during that time.

When I was in consumer sales and later manufacturing, I was very proud to provide exceptional product to homeowners, retailers, and manufactured housing communities, some of which are testifying behind me. A large number of manufactured housing communities that my company provided homes for were generational family businesses with impeccable reputations. Details of our opposition to this legislation will follow from outstanding communities as well as testimony with national data on the results of proposals such as those being considered today from the Manufactured Housing Institute.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to address you and we will provide additional information as requested for the work session.