

Blum, Alyster

From: Daniel Battin <dbattin@nnec.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 6:17 AM
To: Cmte HED
Subject: Oppose LD 1806

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This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Dear housing committee,

My employer operates a 48-unit senior housing center in Brunswick Maine. Our rents are likely several hundred dollars below market value. We have a good reputation and have over 20 names on our waiting list. We could do better financially by selling the property and earning interest on the proceeds. However our organization has been committed to providing a quality and affordable senior housing experience for our residents. The last thing we need is more administrative paperwork and fees, which would have to be passed on to our residents.

I am opposed to LD 1806 for the following reasons.

- **Weaponizing Technicalities** - Tying basic legal rights - like access to eviction proceedings - to compliance with rental registries creates dangerous loopholes that can be exploited. A missed filing or an unnoticed change in the law shouldn't strip property owners of due process.
- **Punishing Good Landlords Doesn't Solve Bad Behavior** - Rental registries often target responsible landlords with new fees, paperwork, and penalties—while doing little to address truly negligent actors who already operate outside the system.
- **Duplicative and Bureaucratic** - Information required in rental registries is already collected through tax rolls, code enforcement, and/or business licensing. A separate registry adds redundant bureaucracy without delivering better housing outcomes.
- **Registration Does Not Equate to Accountability** - There's no evidence that forcing landlords to register improves housing quality. Bad actors don't follow the rules to begin with - those who comply are already the ones maintaining safe, habitable units.
- **Disproportionately Burdens Small Landlords** - Mom-and-pop landlords are already navigating an increasingly complex legal landscape. New registration requirements risk pushing them out of the market, leading to further consolidation by large corporate investors.
- **Legal Inconsistencies and State Confusion** - Even the Maine Attorney General's model lease hasn't been updated to reflect recent legal changes. If the state can't keep up with its own requirements, how are landlords expected to stay compliant?
- **Costs Are Passed to Tenants** - The administrative costs and fines associated with rental registries often result in higher rents for tenants, further worsening the housing affordability crisis.

- **Focus on Enforcement, Not Paperwork** - We should invest in enforcing existing housing and safety laws - not creating another layer of regulation that burdens compliant landlords and fails to deter bad ones.

Daniel Battin

Treasurer

Northern England Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.

Sent from my iPhone