



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Testimony of Representative Karen Montell introducing
**LD 1776, An Act to Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the
State House Complex**

Before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government: My name is Karen Montell, and I represent House District 54, which includes the Town of Farmingdale and the City of Gardiner. I am here today to present to you for your consideration **LD 1776, An Act To Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the State House Complex**.

Two years ago, I came before this committee to introduce legislation that would eventually reveal elevated levels of radon in the State House. Those areas are currently being mitigated. While working on that bill, I was introduced to the Maine Indoor Air Quality Council (MIAQC) which has been an invaluable resource for my work in this policy area. I was immediately connected to industry professionals that understand the important work and challenges of making indoor spaces healthy. I was so impressed by the knowledge and support of this group that I became a MIAQC member, and I am grateful for their continued support, energy and expertise.

I stand before you today to ask for your support of LD 1776 to establish this interdisciplinary advisory board to continue to do the work of improving indoor air quality in a thoughtful proactive way here in these buildings where lawmakers, staff and the public frequent, often for extremely long days.

This proposed board would be comprised of qualified industry professionals and department staff, experts from the public and building staff, as outlined in the bill language. This is to ensure that occupational health and safety needs are addressed in a proactive, transparent and streamlined public process.

I feel extremely blessed to be able to serve in my capacity as a legislator in these beautiful historic spaces, while understanding the challenges of how best to ensure a healthy working environment. I respectfully request that we assign this important work to the experts in this interdisciplinary board.

Thank you for your time, attention and consideration of LD 1776. I would be happy to take any questions you may have.

District 54: Gardiner and Farmingdale