



STATE OF MAINE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE
181 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0181

Testimony In Support of

L.D. 1912, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Address Maine's Housing Shortage

May 13, 2025

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, my name is Greg Payne and I serve as the Senior Advisor on Housing Policy in the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. I am here today to offer testimony in support of **L.D. 1912, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Address Maine's Housing Shortage**.

The Administration's highest priority in addressing Maine's housing affordability challenges is increasing our supply of homes. That is why we have worked so closely with legislators on both sides of the aisle to make historic investments in proven and successful affordable housing development programs. Those investments have resulted in the largest production pipeline in MaineHousing's 50-year organizational history.

We believe that it is critical to utilize all of the tools at our disposal to continue such investments into the future, and see general obligation bonding as one such tool. LD 1912 proposes supports for modular and other innovative housing construction methods while also investing in key home repair and weatherization programs at MaineHousing.

GOPIF also supports elements of housing bond proposals that were heard earlier this session: LD 690, sponsored by Senator Pierce, LD 483, sponsored by Speaker Fecteau and LD 1424, sponsored by President Daughtry. Those bills propose new resources to allow MaineHousing to continue the Rural Affordable Rental Housing Program and the Affordable Homeownership Program, among other investments.

As Maine people continue to struggle with the high cost of housing, we hope to work with legislators on both sides of the aisle to expand on the historic investments we have already made together. We see real opportunity to do so through a bipartisan general obligation bond that would also support Maine businesses. LD 1912 includes innovative ideas that could be a key element of such an initiative, and we thank Senator Bennett for bringing it forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. I would be happy to answer any questions.