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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

IN SUPPORT OF LD 2079

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Reporting on Residential Buildings

January 20, 2026

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, my name is Hilary Gove. I am one of the two Housing Opportunity Program Coordinators within the Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA). I am speaking today in support of LD 2079, An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Municipal Reporting on Residential Buildings

This bill amends the municipal housing data categories that municipalities with 4,000 or more residents must report to MOCA, as well as extends the deadline for submission of the municipal data report from the end of January to the end of March of each reporting year. This legislation also encourages municipalities with fewer than 4,000 residents to report housing data.

MOCA supports this bill because the amended data categories in the bill align with how municipalities currently report building permit data to the U.S. Census. The U.S. Census asks municipalities to organize building permit data by unit type including single-family, 2-unit, 3-4 unit, and 5 or more units. Aligning the State's data collection process with how municipalities already collect and report on housing data makes the data collection process easier for municipalities.

Also, MOCA supports the extension of the reporting deadline from January to March of each year, to give municipalities additional time to collect and report on yearly housing data.

Finally, MOCA supports the inclusion of language that encourages municipalities with fewer than 4,000 residents to provide housing data. Receiving data from a greater number of municipalities will help to more accurately track the State's progress towards its housing production goals.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions now or at the work session.

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