



**Testimony of Maine Association of Public Housing Directors
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 2212
February 19, 2026**

Senator Rotundo, Representative Gattine, members of the joint standing committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and the joint standing committee of Housing and Economic Development:

I am Norman Maze, President of the Maine Association of Public Housing Directors (MAPHD), and the Executive Director of Augusta Housing Authority. Our association, MAPHD, unites the leaders of more than twenty local Public Housing Authorities across the state. Our reach extends from Kittery to Van Buren, allowing us to serve thousands of Maine residents. We are property owners, managers, and housing developers working to address the state's housing needs.

Maine is grappling with a critical and systemic housing shortage, a crisis that is actively impeding workforce growth, economic development, and overall community stability.

The immense demand for safe, affordable housing severely outstrips the available supply. We witness this daily: our member Public Housing Authorities manage persistent, record-long waitlists for low-income and workforce housing, which are clear evidence of the thousands of families and seniors struggling to find a stable home.

Addressing this challenge requires essential, strategic public investment. State funding is vital for supporting the production and preservation of housing that MAPHD members are uniquely positioned to deliver. This investment not only ensures the deepest levels of affordability but also leverages private capital, lowers development barriers, and moves projects forward for Maine residents who need them most. A sustained state-level commitment is necessary to close financing gaps and deliver the housing units Maine urgently needs.

Ultimately, housing availability and stability are fundamental to Maine's economic vitality. By continuing this crucial investment through the supplemental budget, we can ensure Maine remains a state where our most vulnerable residents, our workers, and our families are all positioned to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.