



Testimony in Support of LD 207

As Amended by the Sponsor's Amendment

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Public Safety to Examine the Responsibilities, Fees, and Duties of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board

March 20, 2023

Senator Bibbe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and Honorable Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee;

On behalf of the Maine Real Estate and Development Association (MEREDA), I am pleased to submit this testimony in support of LD 207, as presented by the Sponsor's Amendment, entitled "Resolve, to Direct the Department of Public Safety to Examine the Responsibilities, Fees, and Duties of the Technical Building Codes and Standards Board."

MEREDA has long supported a robust Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code and was one of the original supporters of adoption of the uniform code. Today, the MUBEC is taking on even greater significance as building codes evolve, new building materials and design styles emerge to battle climate change, and as much-needed new housing construction gets underway. As this important work ramps up, MEREDA believes it is appropriate for the legislature to direct the Department of Public Safety to consider how best to manage and support the MUBEC Board.

The MUBEC Board plays a critical role in the implementation of the international building codes in Maine. The MUBEC Board reviews the newly updated international codes (including the International Building Code, the International Existing Building Code, and the International Energy Conservation Code). The purpose of this Board review is to determine whether any provisions in the international codes are inappropriate for Maine, and to amend the code as it is adopted to account for those changes.

MEREDA believes the MUBEC needs additional financial support to assist in its important work. We believe a study to review where funds could be sought, what the best oversight agency for future MUBEC operations should be, and what considerations will be critical during code review and adoption. We also strongly support bolstering education and resources for the Code Enforcement Officers who enforce the codes on the ground.

MEREDA appreciates the sponsor's efforts at coordinating with stakeholders regarding this legislation, and strongly supports the enactment of a study. We look forward to being part of these ongoing discussions and thank the committee for its thoughtful consideration of this important measure.

Please support LD 207 unanimously with an Ought to Pass as Amended report.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth M. Frazier

On behalf of the Maine Real Estate & Development Association



