



March 7, 2022

Committee On Environment and Natural Resources  
Cross State Office Building  
Augusta, ME 04333

*RE: LD 259 "An Act To Increase Waste Handling Fees Imposed on the Landfilling of Municipal Solid Waste  
and Construction and Demolition Debris"*

Senator Brenner, Representative Tucker and Members of the Committee,

I am Carl Chretien, a residential contractor in southern Maine, a board member of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Maine, as well as a State Rep at the National Association of Home Builders in Washington DC.

Based on US Census data, 6,825 building projects took place in the state of Maine in 2021. 5,414 of these projects were single family homes. It has been recently reported that 25,000 affordable housing units are needed in the state of Maine to meet demand.

The National Association of Home Builders released data in January of 2022 which demonstrated the increase cost of lumber alone added more than \$18,000 to the cost of a single-family home and nearly \$8,000 to multi-unit construction projects. This is one, albeit very large, component of home building, but builders report the smaller, sometimes hidden costs, are those that have a larger impact on the housing affordability for buyers. Fees, such as those proposed in LD259, add up to a larger total package that is becoming less and less affordable for home buyers.

Every builder in the state of Maine has felt the crunch of increased costs. **Adding even more costs to the bottom line of home building right now would be ill timed** if we are to meet the demand and housing affordability needs that have been highlighted in recent months.

Members of the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Maine are making every effort to recycle building materials to remove debris from the waste stream, but there are wastes in the construction process that are unavoidable. On average, our members have approximately 2-3 tons mixed recycling and waste in the construction of a 2,000 square foot new construction home. This is much lower than the historically reported number from the NAHB of 4 tons per home.

With the \$10 increase proposed in LD259, alongside the \$3 increase proposed in LD1694 "An Act To Create the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority", our industry is facing a \$13 total increase at a time of historic building costs. Housing affordability is a well-documented crisis our state is facing, we are against LD259.

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President

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Certified Graduate Builder, Certified Aging in Place Specialist, Certified Green Professional