Cynthia Dufresne Old Orchard Beach LD 1723

I am a resident of Old Orchard Beach mobile home park and Atlantic Village. We were able to get an ordinance passed last year to try to avoid excessive lot rent increases. In the process of getting petitions signed I met many of my neighbors in the park and was saddened by the stories / fear that were shared. I repeatedly encountered residents who were barely making ends meet, who were sometimes frightened and in tears trying to figure out a way to stay in their homes with increasing costs. New owners, out of state profit making company, clearly want to make a profit from their investment, put home ownership at risk - Where could they go? Affordable housing is rare in this area (as elsewhere) and I met many neighbors who run a very real risk of being homeless, trying to cut back expenditures wherever possible but one can only limit food or heating so much. I am fortunate (at age 77) to be able to work parttime at Hannafords to supplement social security - many cannot do that and, of course, I will age, too. My husband and I are hoping that this bill will provide at least some reassurance to us and our neighbors. Even now my husband is recuperating from two back to back surgeries which will entail even more expenses. If we could we would be physically present in Augusta but do hope that we have contributed some insight from OOB