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State of Maine - 132nd Legislature  
Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development  
Testimony of Andrew Lardie on behalf of Tedford Housing (Brunswick, Maine)  
May 2, 2025

Supporting L.D. 1476, "An Act to Support Maine's Homeless Shelters by Imposing a Fee for Booking Hotels, Short-term Rentals and Recreational Vehicle Camping Reservations "

Senator Curry, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

My name is Andrew Lardie, and I am here on behalf of Tedford Housing. Tedford serves 40 towns and 150,000 residents in the southern midcoast through a range of programs to prevent homelessness and mitigate its impact. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1476, "An Act to Support Maine's Homeless Shelters by Imposing a Fee for Booking Hotels, Short-term Rentals and Recreational Vehicle Camping Reservations."

Over the past year, lawmakers have advised shelter directors that our request for increase state support would be strengthened if we can identify a source for the needed revenue. This bill wisely proposes to collect additional revenue by tapping into Maine's seasonal economic activity, which is driven primarily by non-residents. The nominal fee impacts only discretionary spending and does not burden businesses. The simplicity of the proposed bill is another strength.

Although the fiscal impact of this bill is apparently not yet known, any revenue it generates would ease the challenge of providing critically-needed support for basic public health services. I would expect a cost-benefit analysis to show that the financial and societal risk of failing to sustain shelters is much greater than any risks associated with implementing LD 1476.

I understand this bill ought to be amended to direct its proceeds to MaineHousing rather than DHHS. Assuming that amendment can be made, I urge you to vote ought-to-pass on this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Lardie".

Andrew Lardie  
Executive Director



United Way of Mid Coast Maine  
United Way of Androscoggin County

