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Buxton

I am writing to support bill LD 819. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and is responsible for more than 21,000 deaths per year in the US. Studies show that the negative effects of radon can manifest themselves in as little as five years. That's why it is imperative to test residential buildings annually. For levels at 4.0 picocuries per liter or higher, mitigation within six months could potentially save thousands of lives. The current requirement of only notifying the tenants within 12 months of occupancy, of levels of at least 4.0 picocuries with no other responsibility, potentially exposes the tenants to hazardous levels for extended periods of time. Long term residents are especially at risk.

As the surviving spouse of someone who died of lung cancer a year and a half ago, I can attest to the devastation this disease inflicts on the patient and his/her family. I wouldn't wish it on anyone. Hopefully, this measure will go far in reducing the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in Maine.