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Bangor

As a landlord and public health professional, I am opposed to LD 819 - An Act to Reduce Lung Cancer Rates in Maine by Requiring Testing for and Mitigation of Radon in Residential Buildings by Landlords.

Scientific research has determined that 90% of lung cancer diagnoses are linked to smoking. If our state representatives would truly like to reduce incidences of lung cancer in this state then they need to change smoking laws and provide more funding to smoking cessation programs. This bill is putting additional expenses on landlords. Maine, much like the rest of the country, is currently in an affordable housing crisis. Continuing to mandate private landlords to conduct additional, unneeded annual tests will only exacerbate the affordable housing crisis as more landlords will turn their rental properties into single-family homes, condos, or short-term rentals.

If our Maine representations used science to write this bill and actually cared about the health and wellness of the Maine people they represent, then they will work to tighten our smoking laws and provide more public health funding for smoking cessation, including vaping. I encourage you all to read the scientific literature. I strongly believe that the current law of testing every 10 years is sufficient, especially if a property has no detectable levels of radon.