

To: Maine Legislature Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee
From: Tony Donovan, Resident City of Portland
Date: May 19, 2023
Re: **LD 1867 An Act to Establish the Community Housing and Rural Development Authority**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, Esteemed Members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee

My name is Tony Donovan, I am a Portland resident and Realtor, practicing in Maine for over 40 years. I am here to speak in support of LD 1867 as a needed Act of this legislature to begin to address the serious issue of lack of affordable and accessible housing.

My own children, born and raised in Maine as their ancestors have been for generations, cannot afford to buy a home. They are young adults with professional careers wanting to live in Maine and raise children. They are not able to. One daughter moved away seeking better opportunities.

I speak of professionals with good incomes. If these young people cannot find affordable housing, what can we expect of the more vulnerable in our population? Maine residents and newcomers who have talents needed for our economy and social fabric. The situation is real and it is dire.

The need for housing is truly universal – no matter who we are, where we're from or how much money we have, we all need a safe, stable place to live. From Fort Kent to Lubec to Kittery, Maine is in a housing crisis.

The solution to this crisis won't come from just one place – it requires a combination of actions we take now to ensure everyone has a stable home, and planning for a future where there is enough housing for everyone, no matter what their income.

We need a toolkit, so we can employ the right tactics when they're needed.

LD 1867 is a vital tool in the state toolkit, along with renter protections and making it easier to build new housing. Why? because it serves people in income brackets that our market-based housing system doesn't serve. This includes many teachers, firefighters, librarians, and nurses, (people whose incomes are 60-120% of the Area Median Income) who find themselves priced out of their home communities.

Please Vote LD 1867 Ought to Pass. Support Maine and support Maine people

**Thank you,
Tony Donovan
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LD 1867

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