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**Testimony in Support of LD 2169 (“An Act to Support the Development of Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine”)**

**J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®**

**February 6, 2024**

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® grow Maine’s economy and build Maine communities. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 2169. The bill proposes a loan program specifically for affordable workforce housing. The terms of the program offer a low interest rate to developers of affordable housing.

This bill incentivizes developers to build needed affordable housing for our workforce community. This bill would provide housing for existing workers and also increase the supply of available housing to be able to attract new workers we need for our future.

We support LD 2169 because it focuses on the root of our housing problem: a lack of supply. This bill is a potential solution to address affordable housing needs in our state. We support LD 2169 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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