

Henry L. Ingwersen Senator, District 32

February 6, 2024

3 State House Station Augusta, Maine 04333

Testimony of Senator Henry Ingwersen in support of LD 2169, An Act to Support the Development of Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine Before the Joint Select Committee on Housing

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, my name is Henry Ingwersen and I proudly represent the people of Senate District 32 which includes Arundel, Biddeford, Dayton, Hollis and Lyman. I'm here today in support of <u>LD 2169</u>, *An Act to Support the Development of Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine*. This bill will address our housing crisis and help Maine's workforce find housing.

Today's legislation will work to establish a loan fund within Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development to support the development of affordable housing. We know housing is one of Maine's pressing issues, it's even more crucial to the many workers and new families that are currently priced out of the housing market. With the passage of LD 2169, we will expand housing opportunities for Mainer's and workers who are looking to enter the workforce.

This bill also works to support Maine's agricultural sector. Maine's agriculture is a major part of our economy. Farmers are in need of workers and in need of affordable housing for their workers. Today's bill should encourage opportunities for more farm workforce housing to strengthen Maine's agriculture and our economy.

I urge all committee members to support today's bill. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Henry Ingwersen

State Senator