



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002  
(207) 287-1400  
TTY: (207) 287-4469

**Kyle R. Bailey**

Cell Phone: 939-8600

[Kyle.Bailey@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Kyle.Bailey@legislature.maine.gov)

April 16, 2021

## **Testimony of Representative Kyle R. Bailey in Support of LD 1246 Before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Labor**

Sen. Hickman, Rep. Sylvester and distinguished members of the Housing and Labor Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of LD 1246, "Resolve, To Study Best Practices and Different Area Needs for Development of Affordable Homes and Expanding Home Ownership in Maine Communities."

From Rockland to Gorham, we have a housing crisis across Maine. We have a lack of supply, while demand is through the roof. The result is sky high prices for what little is available.

Gorham has been Maine's fastest growing community for years because we *have* good schools, we *are* close to Portland and we *had* affordable housing for working and middle class Mainers. But, housing is no longer affordable in our community except for upper middle class professionals (i.e. lawyers, doctors, CEOs, etc.).

My husband and I purchased our small three bedroom ranch home in 2014 for \$219,000. We could list the house tomorrow for \$350,000, have a multiple offer situation with a dozen or more offers within 48 hours, and likely sell above the listing prices. We're tempted to do so, but we have nowhere to go. We can't afford another house in our community.

In recent years, firefighters and police officers hired by the Town of Gorham who were not already residents of our community have been forced to live west and south of our town because they cannot afford to live in the community in which they work. These are the folks who put their lives on the line to protect us, yet they cannot be our neighbors because they cannot afford to be our neighbors. That is terribly wrong.

We need solutions. That is why I support LD 1246 and urge the Committee's thoughtful consideration of this study bill to ensure that we come up with a path forward to build more housing and ensure there is affordable housing for working Mainers and their families. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.