

Amy Eshoo
350 Maine

To: Maine Legislature Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing

From: Amy Eshoo, Program Manager, 350 Maine

Date: April 30, 2021

Re: LD 1656 An Act to Build Energy-efficient Affordable Housing OUGHT TO PASS

Senator Hickman, Representative Sylvester, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing: My name is Amy Eshoo and I am a resident of North Yarmouth and the Program Manager for 350 Maine, a statewide grassroots climate justice organization with over 3,000 members. I am writing today to testify in favor of LD 1656.

As an organization dedicated to ending our addiction to fossil fuels, we believe it is critical that Maine invest in addressing the greenhouse gas emissions of our buildings and scaling up our capacity to build to cutting-edge energy efficiency standards. As an organization focused on fighting for climate justice, we believe investing in addressing our affordable housing crisis as the means is not only practical but the right place to start. For so long it has primarily been those with excess wealth who have been able to invest in greener, more energy-efficient housing. By flipping that practice, and starting with those least able to afford housing in Maine, we are addressing a long-standing injustice, saving public resources and making it easier for others to upgrade the efficiency of their home.

Please vote LD 1656 'Ought To Pass'. Thank you.