

Morgan Macdougall
Lincolnville

Hello,

My name is Morgan Macdougall, and I am a student at Watershed High School in Camden Maine. I am writing to show my support for the LD 1656. Maine has three connected problems that this bill would help solve, the housing shortage, a labor crisis, and the climate crisis. Maine is short thousands of houses, and the houses available use a large amount of greenhouse gas emissions. In 2018, Maine had a housing shortage of over 20,000 rentals, leaving some residents without a place to live. This negatively impacts lower-income Maine residents the most and leaves thousands struggling to pay rent. Lastly, the climate crisis in Maine should not be overlooked. The Gulf of Maine is warming faster than 99% of Maine's oceans, and with warming, waters will bring disaster to Mariner fisheries and economy. If climate change continues to negatively affect Maine, we will see less lobster, more ticks, and extreme sea-level rise. All of these factors will be catastrophic for our economy, tourism, and our beautiful environment. Right now, reducing carbon emissions is essential and should be seen as an emergency. I support the LD 1656 bill because I believe that Maine residents deserve access to energy-efficient, affordable housing.

Thank you,

Morgan B Macdougall