

Leif Maynard  
Sunrise Bowdoin

Dear honorable committee members,

My name is Leif Maynard; I'm a sophomore studying Government and Environmental Studies at Bowdoin College and a member of Sunrise, a youth led movement to address climate change and create millions of jobs in the process. I urge this committee to pass LD 1656, An Act to Promote Energy-efficient Affordable Housing.

Currently, Maine is short more than 20,000 housing units, and every year, 5,000-6,000 Mainers face the loss of their home through eviction or foreclosure. This is unacceptable and flies in the face of everything we value as a state and community. This bill is an innovative way to address this humanitarian problem while creating jobs and making Maine a leader in fighting the climate crisis. Economic stimulus is more important now than ever, and this bill is the perfect example of the type of bold but necessary program that will boost Maine's economy while taking care of the most vulnerable among us. With more than \$1 billion in federal funds soon to flow to Maine through the American Rescue Plan, this bill ensures that federal funds from this act and other federal dollars can be used to build energy efficient housing at the scale we need.

I lived in Section 8 housing when I was a little kid. The only reason my family was able to get to where we are now—me at Bowdoin and my parents with their own successful small businesses—is because we had a roof over our heads when we were hurting most. I am also part of the generation that will face the brunt of the consequences from the climate crisis. I am currently not anticipating staying in Maine after I graduate due to a general lack of jobs, but if this bill is passed, staying in the state and working in the renewable energy or energy efficient housing industry is more appealing.

LD 1656 is a smart investment that would benefit everyone and hurt nobody. It would position Maine as a leader in affordable housing and green job generation. Please don't pass up this opportunity.