



19 Community Drive · Augusta, Maine 04330 · (207) 622-7501 · Fax: (207) 623-3590

**Testimony in Support of LD 1539 (“An Act to Promote a Diverse, More Experienced Construction Workforce and Ensure High-quality Careers by Increasing Registered Apprenticeship Programs”)**

**J. Andrew Cashman on behalf of the Maine Association of REALTORS®**

**April 21, 2023**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing, my name is Andy Cashman. I am the Founder of Resolve Government Relations. We represent the Maine Association of REALTORS®, a professional trade association established in 1936 with over 6,500 members statewide. REALTORS® grow Maine’s economy and build Maine communities. Our members represent buyers and sellers involved in both residential and commercial real estate transactions. Our membership also includes industry affiliates, such as lenders, closing agents, title agents, appraisers, building inspectors, surveyors, etc. The Maine Association is chartered by the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR), the largest trade association in the country.

The Maine Association of REALTORS® supports LD 1539. The bill provides an improved pipeline for apprenticeships in the construction industry. There is a significant need for construction trade-workers as Maine struggles to increase housing supply. The shortage of trade-workers contributes to delays in construction, and the overall vitality of the housing industry in Maine. We cannot solve the affordable housing problem without building more units. To do that, we need more skilled trade-workers, and this bill aims to streamline that process and make access to training and apprenticeship easier for those looking to enter the trade industry.

We support this bill because it focuses on accessibility to training for the construction industry and encourages job training and apprenticeship in the field. We do not have enough affordable homes in Maine and need to build more – either through entirely new homes or by modifying existing structures. This bill would positively impact the housing industry and increase the number of available skilled workers who will be essential to building more housing supply.

For these reasons, we support LD 1539 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought to Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.



REALTOR® - is a registered mark which identifies a professional in real estate who subscribes to a strict Code of Ethics as a member of the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY