

City of Portland | City Council
Mark Dion, *Mayor*



To: Joint Standing Committee on Housing
From: Portland City Council's Legislative Committee
Date: 1/30/2024
Re: LD 2146

**Testimony in Support of LD 2146 An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on
Emergency Shelters**

Senator Nangle, Representative Stover and distinguished members of the Joint Select Committee on State and Local Government:

On behalf of the Portland City Council's Legislative Committee, I write to you in support of LD 2146, An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters.

The shortage of housing and the escalating costs of homes and rents have led to severe consequences, including a rise in homelessness. This crisis encompasses families unable to afford rising rents, individuals grappling with mental health and substance use issues, and those seeking asylum in Maine, all in need of immediate shelter.

Shelters play a critical role in solving homelessness and in keeping communities safe. LD 2146 would very simply prohibit major service-center municipalities with populations greater than 30,000 from banning emergency shelters. Maine can solve the housing and homelessness crisis, but it's going to require every community to do their part.

At a time when housing options are limited and our unhoused populations continue to grow, it is imperative that we can create emergency shelters in municipalities across Maine. Portland City Council's Legislative Committee asks that you please vote in favor of LD 2146.

Thank you for your consideration.

389 Congress Street, Portland, Maine 04101 | 207-874-8300 | info@portlandmaine.gov