

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

Good afternoon Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. My name is Scott Harriman, I live in Lewiston, and I am testifying in support of LD 2146, “An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Adopting Moratoria on Emergency Shelters.”

Communities across the state are experiencing what can be accurately described as a homelessness crisis, exacerbated by the lack of available housing. Under these conditions, no municipality should be working to prevent the creation of shelters that can keep people out of the weather, off the streets, and provide them with necessary services.

Unfortunately, though, that’s what happened in my community. In April 2022, during my first term on the Lewiston City Council, four councilors passed a moratorium on homeless shelters just after we had been presented with a promising proposal to build one in town. The moratorium lasted about seven months, but its negative impacts have lasted much longer.

Jumping ahead almost two years to today, Lewiston still doesn’t have a low-barrier shelter and the number of our friends and neighbors struggling with homelessness has only grown larger. The current city council recognizes the importance of this issue and the negative impact that our community has endured from ignoring it, but we’re starting from a deficit in terms of winning back people’s trust and getting some kind of comprehensive shelter and resource center in place.

Municipalities shouldn’t be allowed to simply ignore homelessness by prohibiting shelters. Please vote **Ought To Pass** on LD 2146. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Harriman (he/him)  
City Councilor, Ward 3  
City Council President  
Lewiston, Maine  
sharriman@lewistonmaine.gov