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## Testimony in Support of LD 1672 (“An Act to Establish an Affordable Housing Permitting Process”)

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

**January 5, 2024**

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere and members of the Joint Select Committee on 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 1672. The bill would establish the Affordable Housing Development Review Board to issue permits for the development of affordable housing and workforce housing. The bill would add more housing supply options statewide by expediting the permit process with a focus on affordable housing. It would be a useful tool for municipalities with limited resources or access to keep up with the growing demand for housing in their area. This is a commonsense approach to adding more housing units, which will increase Maine’s needed available housing inventory. Ensuring that Mainers can live in safe and decent housing that is affordable to them is paramount and Maine needs housing supply. We urge all levels of government to adopt and integrate housing policies that respond to the housing needs of our society and this bill would do so. For these reasons, we support LD 1672 and respectfully urge you to vote Ought To Pass. Thank you for your time and consideration.



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