



MAINE AFFORDABLE HOUSING COALITION

3i Housing of Maine
 55 Weston Avenue
 AARP Maine
 ABG Consulting, Gray
 Acorn Engineering, Inc.
 Allied Cook Construction, Portland
 Anew Development LLC, Portland
 Apartments for People LLC, Belfast
 Archetype Architects, Portland
 Associated General Contractors of Maine
 Auburn Housing Authority
 Augusta Housing Authority
 Avesta Housing, Portland
 Bangor Area Homeless Shelter
 Bangor Housing
 Bangor Savings Bank
 Bank of New Hampshire, Falmouth
 Bath Housing
 Bath Savings Institution
 Belwether Enterprise
 Benchmark Construction, Westbrook
 Boston Financial Investment Management
 Bowman Constructors, Newport
 Brunswick Housing Authority
 Camden National Bank
 Carpenter Associates
 Catholic Charities of Maine
 CEI, Brunswick
 CHK Architecture, Portland
 City of Portland Department of Housing
 Clark Insurance, Lewiston
 Community Concepts, Lewiston
 Community Housing of Maine, Portland
 Consigli Construction Co., Inc.
 Cooperative Development Institute, South Freeport
 Cooperative Fund of the Northeast
 CREA, LLC
 Credere Associates, Westbrook
 Cross Financial Corp., Portland
 Cumberland County
 Curtis Theater, Portland
 CVS Architects, Portland
 Developers Collaborative, Portland
 Development Services of New England, Freeport
 Dovetail Consulting
 DrummondWoodsum, Portland
 Ducas Construction, Inc.
 Dunbar & Brown Construction
 Eagle Point Development, LLC
 Eaton Peabody Consulting Group, Augusta
 Eric Burmeister
 Evernorth, Portland
 Falmouth, Town of
 Fort Fairfield Residential Development Corp.
 Four Directions Development Corporation, Orono
 Freeport Community Services
 Freeport Housing Trust
 Furniture Friends
 Gannett Construction, Augusta
 Gawron Turgeon Architects, Scarborough
 Genesis Community Loan Fund, Brunswick
 Gorham Savings Bank
 Great Falls Construction, Gorham
 Grommes Pulaski Consulting LLC, Portland
 GrowSmart Maine
 Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland
 Habitat for Humanity York County
 Hancock Lumber, Casco
 Healthy Androscoquin, Lewiston
 Hebert Construction
 Home Start, Peaks Island
 Homeless Voices for Justice, Portland
 Housing Foundation, Orono
 Housing Initiatives of New England, Portland
 Housing Partnership, Portsmouth, NH
 Hunt Capital Partners LLC, El Paso, TX
 Island Institute, Rockland
 Islesboro Affordable Property
 Jensen Baird Gardner & Henry, Portland
 John Anton, Consultant, Portland
 Kaplan Thompson Architects, Portland
 Kennebec Savings Bank, Augusta
 Kennebec Valley Community Action, Waterville
 Kennebunk Savings
 KeyBank
 Knox County Homeless Coalition
 Lake City Investments, LLC
 Landry/French Construction, Scarborough
 LaRoche Consulting, LLC, Augusta
 Lassel Architects, South Berwick
 LB Development Partners, Portland
 LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire
 Lewiston Housing Authority
 M&T Bank
 Machias Savings Bank
 Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services
 Maine Community Action Partnership
 Maine Community Bank
 Maine Department of Health & Human Services
 Maine Equal Justice
 Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition
 Maine Public Health Association
 Maine Real Estate Managers Association
 Maine State Building & Construction Trades
 Maine Workforce Housing LLC, Portland
 Mano en Mano, Milbridge
 Manx Development LLC, Yarmouth
 Mascocoma Bank
 Midcoast Regional Housing Trust
 NBT Bank
 Nickerson & O'Day, Inc., Bangor
 North Haven Sustainable Housing
 Northeast Rental Housing
 Norway Savings Bank
 Old Town Housing Authority
 Ott Atwell CPAs, South Portland
 Penobscot General Contractors
 Penquis, Bangor
 People's United Bank
 PM Construction
 Portland Builders
 Portland Housing Authority
 Preble Street, Portland
 Preservation Management, South Portland
 Preti Floherty, Portland
 Raise-Op Housing Cooperative, Lewiston
 Realty Resources Management
 Rental Housing Alliance of Southern Maine
 Rick Whiting
 Rumford, Town of
 Sanford Housing Authority
 Scott Simons Architects, Portland
 Sea Coast Management Company, Topsham
 Shalom House, Portland
 Silver Street Development Corporation, Portland
 South Portland Housing Authority
 Sparhawk Group, Yarmouth
 St. German
 Sunrise Opportunities, Machias
 S.W. Cole Engineering, Gray
 Szanton Company
 TD Bank
 Tedford Housing, Brunswick
 The Caleb Group, Saco
 The Eagle Point Companies, South Portland
 The Housing Foundation
 The Park Danforth, Portland
 Thornton Tomasetti, Portland
 Through These Doors, Portland
 Total Construction Management, Winterport
 TPD Construction Co., Sanford
 United Way of Greater Portland
 Utile, Inc.
 Veterans Inc., Lewiston
 Volunteers of America of Northern NE
 Washington County Assoc for Ret. Citizens
 Westbrook Housing Authority
 Western Maine Community Action, E. Wilton
 Winton Scott Architects
 Wischamper Companies, Portland
 WWC & Associates
 Wright-Ryan Construction, Portland
 Yarmouth Housing Collaborative
 Year-Round Housing Corp., Long Island
 York County Community Action, Sanford
 York Housing Authority
 Zachau Construction, Freeport
 Zero Energy Design
 Zeta Energy, Bangor

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Testimony of Laura Mitchell, Executive Director of the Maine Affordable Housing Coalition,
3.10.25

in favor of LD847 An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination

Good afternoon, Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Laura Mitchell. I am the Executive Director of the **Maine Affordable Housing Coalition.** MAHC is a nonprofit with 140 member organizations working to create and preserve affordable homes for all Maine people.

Maine is facing a housing shortage of 40,000 homes, and needs another 40,000 homes by 2030. This housing shortage has led to increasing rents making apartments unaffordable for older adults, people with disabilities, and those working full-time making less than \$23 per hour. In fact, **someone in Maine working a full time minimum wage job would need to work over 100 hours a week to be able to afford market rent.**

That's why federal, state, and local housing vouchers, or "tenant-based rental assistance programs", that help cover the cost of rent are so important. **There's a wait list of more than 20,000 people to access rental assistance.** Yet once someone has received their voucher for support, and starts looking for a place to rent, they still face many barriers.

That's why LD847 is so important and MAHC asks you to support this bill. **Maine people with a voucher that guarantees a landlord will receive that rental value on time, every month, still face stigma and discrimination.** This limits their access to a place to call home and forces vouchers to go unused.

LD847 levels the playing field for people using rental assistance, with all other people seeking an apartment to call home.

Now more than ever, Maine people are struggling to find housing even when they have support to pay for rent. Everyone deserves a place to call home and we need to make the pathway to housing easy and fair, for all people.

MAHC asks for your support of LD847. It is particularly important during our state's dire housing shortage while we wait for long-term investments in building new housing. Thank you for this opportunity to share our testimony today.