



**Testimony by William Norbert
Governmental Affairs and Communications Manager**

In Support of L.D. 1709

An Act to Promote Home Ownership by Minimizing Education Debt

**Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development,
Economic Advancement and Business**

May 18, 2021

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

My name is Bill Norbert. I am the Governmental Affairs and Communications Manager at the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME). I live in Brunswick and am pleased to testify in support of L.D. 1709, *An Act to Promote Home Ownership by Minimizing Education Debt*.

This bill would establish the Promotion of Home Ownership by Minimizing Education Debt Program within the Maine State Housing Authority and directs the authority to develop rules to administer the program. The bill also requires Maine Housing to consult with FAME in administering the program, and we would be happy to do that.

The details of the program need to be fleshed out, but improving access to affordable housing and minimizing education debt are two important goals facing the state and we would be happy to collaborate with Maine Housing on these matters.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.