

Joseph Kumiszczka
Cumberland
LD 214

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Housing, my name is Joseph Kumiszczka and I am a resident of Cumberland. I urge you to vote in support of LD 214: "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Zoning and Land Use Restrictions to Limit Certain Requirements to Municipalities with a Population of More than 10,000." This bill will amend the zoning and land use regulations that were made law last year in LD 2003.

I support LD 214 because it allows lower populated municipalities to determine what land use and zoning policies make sense for the development or preservation of their locality. The search for "affordable housing" should begin in and focus on Maine's largest cities; mandates created during that search should not be applied to every community. If affordable housing is Cumberland County's primary issue then perhaps Portland and South Portland should convert their municipal golf courses into new housing locations. LD 214 gives smaller communities the ability to preserve their unique character and sustain the positive characteristics of living in a small town.

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