

Jim Williams

Self

LD 214

April 10, 2023

To the Members of the Committee on Housing

131st Maine Legislature, First Regular Session-2023

Written Testimony for the public hearing on LD 214 on April 11, 2023

Re: speaking in favor of LD 214

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

The law passed last year (LD 2003) does not make sense for small towns and especially small rural towns. Towns without on street parking, metered or unmetered. Towns without any or only a very limited municipal sewer, water system and public transportation systems. Many of these smaller rural towns already provide a more affordable location to live with lower land values and real estate taxes.

When it comes to housing issues one size does not fit all situations. The larger municipalities with substantial municipal sewer and water systems, curbing with painted and metered parking and other infrastructure which is conducive to intensive development are a very different case than small rural towns. Small towns cannot afford amenities such as public bus transportation, municipal trash pickups, sewer systems, and water systems a large concentrated and densely populated municipality can afford. Year after year small towns struggle with a limited tax base to keep taxes down for their residents. And thus keep its small town feel while keeping its taxes affordable. Many people seek out these towns with lower taxes and land values as a more affordable housing alternative. I respectfully request you recommend passing this proposed law.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and comments.

Respectfully yours,

Jim

Jim Williams – Town of West Bath Resident

790 Foster's Point Road

West Bath, Maine 04530