

Eli Goodwin  
Fryeburg  
LD 214

I am a planning board member in the town of Fryeburg. We have had numerous discussions and meetings regarding LD 2003 over the past year. As a town we have paid lawyers to help us understand the law. Everyone is confused and unclear about the law, including the lawyers. Towns like ours do not have the resources to deal with incorporating this law into our ordinance. It is frankly irresponsible of the legislature to impose this law across the board. The law itself is irresponsible. Among other unintended effects, the law will result in haphazardly built units in peoples' backyards. It will be an embarrassment to architecture and planning. It will wreck the fabric and centuries-old land use patterns of our towns. Small towns, which often change at a snail's pace, will be wrecked architecturally. The benefits of this law will be largely wealthy developers and out-of-state speculators. There will be an increasing class divide between towns and neighborhoods that are able to mitigate this law and those that cannot. People of means will choose subdivisions and larger lots. It is astonishing how poorly this law is thought out. If implemented, it will be noted by future stakeholders as a knee-jerk, amateur planning attempt by a group of devastatingly unqualified politicians that will have laid an irreparable road map of community, land use, and architectural upheaval.