

Claudia White
Standish
LD 1810

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I write in support of Bill #LD 1810. I support small business, rights of private owners, and historical preservation which are issues that may not seem to be compatible.

I believe that this bill offers a great opportunity to encourage adaptive re-use of older landmark buildings that make up the stories, history and the “skylines” of our towns.

I live in Standish for half the year at my ancestral home (1780 ish) and in Washington DC the other half the year . DC is where I had 33 years working for the federal government in design, construction and renovation of many new, and historic buildings across the country.

One example of adaptive re-use of a landmark building in Washington, D.C. you may be familiar with was the Old Post Office Building. It's original purpose was in the name but it was first renovated to provide modern office space, food services and space for small businesses in the 1980's. It was renovated once again to serve as a Hotel I am sure you are familiar with called Trump Hotel. The stories that building could tell throughout its history! It's beauty and presence are an immense contribution to the economy and vitality of the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor in the nation's capitol.

Only last year Standish lost a landmark building in the center of the Village . Dr. Buzzells house had been the home and office for a long succession of “town doctors” . It was demolished to make way for a supplemental building to expand a family business. Not knowing the purpose the new building would serve, many of us hoped the old building could have been adapted to accommodate that need.

Perhaps this tax credit bill would have provided enough incentive to the owner to try to adapt that building. Another early Standish building was lost many years ago when there seemed to be no compromise between a private owner's interests and historical preservation. Since that time the Town's Historic Preservation Committee has been defunct which is sad because there is no advocacy for our town's history and no forum to discuss competing or shared interests.

As I said I believe in private ownership rights, small business and historic preservation and I feel this Bill #LD1810 can be a cause for good to help find workable solutions between these issues.

Thank you,

Claudia White, 190 Cape Road, Standish, Maine 04087