

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Housing;

My name is Jack McAdam and I am co-owner of McDougal Orchards LLC, Springvale ME. Please accept this testimony in support of LD 1257 An Act to Increase Housing and Protect the Regional Road Network, Municipal Tax Base, and Working Lands.

There is a need to direct growth to areas with existing infrastructure which will reduce costs to municipal services, while preserving high value natural resources, working forests, and farms. This bill will maintain public access to large open spaces for hunting and recreation and reduce impacts on the roads.

Subdivision law in Maine favors development in locations far from jobs and services. More people have to commute long distances to find housing they can afford, spending significant time and money on transportation. The cumulative impact is increased traffic on our roads. Our road parallels Main Street and traffic has increased steadily over the years as more people commute to their jobs from rural areas. The vehicle speed has also increased on our road.

We must retain our farmland to help grow our food as drought and fire threaten agriculture in the western United States. Farming will become an even more critical part of our future due to climate change. You can meet this challenge by retaining farmland and continuing to build our local food economy.

Please give this bill serious consideration.

Respectfully submitted

Jack McAdam