

Elizabeth Edgecomb  
Scarborough  
LD 1893

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

My name is Eli Edgecomb. I am from the town of Scarborough, and I speak today in opposition to LD 1893. I may be the only person you hear these concerns from today. But I am not alone.

I am a fourth-generation resident of a small community in Scarborough known as Higgins Beach. When my family bought there, it was affordable for regular people. For the last two generations, we've been working hard to hang onto the family home. We have seen half our community forced out by sky rocketing property taxes. As people are forced to sell, their homes are remodeled into McMansions, values rise around us, and our taxes go up again. For the past decade, I've had to move out of my only home for three months a year. The rental income is how I pay my property taxes. I work full time at a good job but cannot pay them without couch surfing for three months. I'm told by the powers that be that we need a community pool. My taxes last year, on a modest house, were \$10K. We're about to have a new valuation. I remember one of those when I was a kid when our rate went up 300%. My town cannot be trusted to control its spending. It sees my neighborhood as a cash cow. It will raise taxes on me to pay for that pool we do not need, without concern for those it forces out. This law gives them the ability to assess whatever fees they see fit. It might as well be an eviction notice.

I know you intend for this law to help with the housing crisis caused, in part, by the greed of landlords transitioning monthly rentals to vacation rentals for profit margins. I don't oppose finding a way to limit that. But we need you to see that, for many of us who have family homes in what have become highly sought after neighborhoods, this law is addressing one housing crisis by creating another.

Thank you.