

Good morning:

My name is Theresa Sol, and I live in Livermore, Maine. I am here today to testify in favor of LD 1771, "An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry."

I would like to thank you for this opportunity to comment on how this bill can strengthen the oversight of Municipal kennels.

As you heard me speak about at the public hearing LD 133, I live near a municipally licensed kennel that moved into our neighborhood many years after we purchased our property. Since 2018, this kennel has challenged my family's peace, mental health and quality of life. Unfortunately, despite having noise and animal control ordinances, town officials have not been able to provide resolution, and the state cannot intervene because they do not have authority over municipally licensed kennels.

**My town's selectmen stated in the Sun Journal that they "lack the resources to adequately address complaints" and that they "have struggled to respond promptly to complaints" this is "due to resource limitations".**

While the state did what it could to investigate the issue without overstepping its authority and discovered that the kennel went without a license or annual inspections for years. This finding supports the theory that this kennel has slipped through the system unchecked due to lack of local oversight and limited resources. It is my opinion that this is an issue that faces many of the rural towns that have these kennels but don't have the money or staff to ensure that the kennel conditions meet state and local regulations.

This all could be prevented if the state had the ability to oversee the municipal kennels as they do with all other licensed animal kennels and shelters in Maine.

While the kennel near me is now licensed with the town, the oversight challenges still continues. Please, this town as well as other towns need additional help.

I'm happy to answer any questions.

Thank you,

Theresa