

Liz Trice
Portland, Cumberland
LD 1940

May 7, 2025

Chairs and Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development;

My name is Liz Trice, I've lived most of my life in Maine, and have a masters' degree from the Muskie School in Public Policy and Community Development. Most of my work is thinking about how to build housing affordably in existing towns and neighborhoods to increase vibrancy and walkability, while protecting our prized natural places including forest, farms, and coastline.

I'm writing to support LR 289 / LD 1940

I want to live in a state of vibrant small towns, farms, and forests, and believe we can have that if we plan for it. We need to invest more in densifying our small towns rather than sprawling across farms and forests. For that to happen, our towns need flexible ways to plan for development that make sense to them. I believe LD 1940 will help with that.

We are facing a serious housing crisis, and if we want towns to change their zoning we need to support local planning that puts new housing and development where people want it, and lets them be creative and flexible in organizing local policies and zoning to align with their priorities. This is not easy work! Real planning takes time, and towns need support to make it happen!

LD 1940 is incredibly flexible, and allows towns to use the data that represents what's important to them to plan for what's important for their towns. The bill will remove onerous mandates and will help communities to engage in meaningful conversations around housing and to update regulations to align with their objectives.

I am willing to assist the committee in any way that is helpful. Thank you.

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