

Jennifer Rock
Troy
LD 2174

On three counts I write to urge you to NOT pass bill LD 2174.

#1) destroys the agency of local government and Mainer's access to any semblance of home rule through town select boards, planning boards, etc. My parents were involved in select and planning boards, I was dragged along to town meeting from an early age. I have lived in many places around the world and I have always been so PROUD of the active local government with an authentic voice that I have witnessed and participated in in Maine. This bill puts us on the slippery slope to loosing that distinguishing feature of resilient Maine life.

#2) This bills is a slap in the face to the COUNTLESS hours(days/weeks/months) and dollars that local communities invested in the last year or so in nutting out ordinances were sound and legal around protecting the decision making by towns in how energy infrastructure is built, as well as in protecting agricultural soils and wildlife habitat.

#3) I am aware that this bill has been 'fast tracked' into the second session because it was initially worded as an emergency bill (although this wording has now been removed, and one wonders exactly what the initially perceived emergency could have been to have been so swiftly edited out?!) but MOST IMPORTANTLY the Constitution of Maine clearly states that emergency bills cannot include an infringement of the right of home rule for municipalities. The latter is of course EXACTLY what this bill is aiming to do. If ever there was an obvious example of why the Constitution of Maine expressly protects against infringements to the basic rights of governance within local communities -such as might be made by fast-tracked "emergency" bills- this is it! Respecting the integrity and foresight of our Constitution means this bill must be rejected to allow for governance at both local and State level to work through an acceptable way forward that does not just blindly renounce hard-wrought ordinances supported by democratic vote. Jennifer Rock, Troy Maine