

Senator Pierce, Representative Gere, and members of the Committee on Housing, my name is Peter Chabot and I live in New Gloucester. I oppose this bill because I bought and paid for my land. I pay my taxes on time. I have 3.2 acres. The towns requirements are 2 acres per residence. I stand before you today after getting cancer treatment in Scarborough with very little time to spare to get here. You hold these meetings while tax paying Americans are at work earning a living to keep the land that they purchased, and are not available to be at these hearings to stand up for themselves. I have enough land to build 2 separate homes while holding to all the setbacks required by the town, yet my lack of .8 acres will not allow for it by town standards. I pay my taxes and the town gets to decide what I can and can not do with my land. It is wrong by every standard that we hold as free Americans.

My intention is to build a home for my parents so that they can come back to Maine and live debt free as I do. I work 60-80 hours a week along with juggling doctors appointments so that I can build them a home and remain debt free for all of us. That is the American dream and it gets shot down by a few people in an office deciding what we as tax payers are allowed to do with our property. I know others in New Gloucester that would like to build small homes on their land for their children because it is hard to find a decent place to rent that is affordable and passing any legislation that would limit what people can do with their land would only hurt our future generations from having a good start in life. I am all for zoning requirements because I do not want my neighbor to build 5 houses on one acre and ruining our quiet neighborhood. I get that, but come on if I have all the proper setbacks needed why should the town have the right to deny me what I want to do with my land? They didn't earn the money to buy it, they don't pay the taxes on it, but if I choose to not pay my taxes because they treat my land as their own they will just take it from me. It is my understanding that LD2003 was passed to increase affordable housing and make finding places to live easier. Why are any bills that would stop such a good thing for our communities being considered? I ask you today to not pass any legislation that would block LD2003 and stop tax paying Americans from using their land as they wish. I speak for all who are at work right now with no clue any of this is going on. Thank you for hearing me.