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May 15, 2023

Testimony of Rep. Adam Lee presenting

LD 54, An Act to Require Compliance with Natural or Agricultural Resource Protection Ordinances

Before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Adam Lee and I represent House District 89, which includes a portion of the Auburn community. I am here before you today to present *LD 54, An Act to Require Compliance with Natural or Agricultural Resource Protection Ordinances*.

This bill simply clarifies that in enacting LD 2003, it was not the legislature's intention to preempt existing agriculture and natural resource protection zones. Certainly, the objective of achieving affordable, dense, concentrated housing in areas with already existing road and utility infrastructure is laudable. It could not, however, have been the legislature's intention to require that spaces traditionally utilized for agriculture located far outside of city or town centers – where people are allowed as an exception to the rule to build housing incidental to their agricultural uses – must suddenly accommodate substantial residential development. Such development will put municipalities in situations where they are pressured to build expensive and environmentally disruptive infrastructure to accommodate new unaffordable housing. It will also directly trade off with the type of affordable housing LD 2003 intended. Everyone I have spoken to who supported LD 2003 tells me it did not intend to have this effect. Everyone who did not support LD 2003 tells me it was fear of this type of effect that they voted against it.

Everyone agrees that LD 2003 should not be utilized to supersede smart and beneficial regulations of this type. This is easy, clarify the ambiguity and please vote in favor of LD 54.