

Senator Baldacci, Representative
Salisbury, Distinguished Members of the
State and Local Government Committee:

My name is Ken “Bucket” Davis and I am
here today to testify in strong support of LD
422, “An Act to Require the State to Obtain
Municipal Approval Before Placing
Noncitizens in the Municipality.”

I have been a selectman in the Town of
East Machias for almost 30 years, have
chaired the board for 20 years, and am a
firm believer in local control.

My town, and pretty much every other
small Washington County town I can think
of, is bare bones. We provide fire
protection, snow plowing, and maintain a
preK-8 school – and do our best to keep
property taxes under control for our seniors
and people living on a fixed income. As it

is, people are having it tough with the cost of everything, and are squeezed to their limit.

We can't afford the expense of caring for, housing, educating, and finding jobs for noncitizens, and should, under the home rule authority, have the ability to reject them. This bill makes it clear that we will, and will allow every municipality in the state the same right.

People don't mind helping their neighbors out, but bringing in people from away and then leaving small towns like mine and Rep. Tuell's, or many of yours, to pick up the bill is wrong. Each of our towns should be able to say, "No thanks!" since it affects our schools, public works, fire protection, and any other services we are able to provide.

With so many older people struggling to stay in their homes, fighting to survive, this bill seems like a no-brainer. I encourage you to vote “Ought to Pass” and stand up for local control in our smallest, most rural towns.

Hon. Ken “Bucket” Davis
East Machias