

Dear Maine State Legislators,

I appreciate you allowing me to speak today and I will keep this brief. I think everyone in the room can agree that there is a housing shortage issue that needs to be addressed and it's a complicated matter. That being said, I believe that the proposed bill LD 445 is a well intentioned effort, however somewhat misguided. I have spent most of my adult life in public safety prior to becoming a code officer for the City of Saco 8 years ago, and feel quite strongly that the building codes, as adopted by the state of Maine are there to provide protections to the consumer, the financial institutions, and even the insurance industry. For those of you who are not aware of how code adoption works, please know that it takes many years to create codes that provide the minimum standards of life safety and structurally sound construction. None of the codes in place are brought forward without a great deal of consideration and discussion. It is not actually the building codes that slow down the process of providing more housing inventory to the market. The many layers of state & local governments, such as zoning, planning boards, and other assorted agencies are the time consuming and often arduous elements of nearly every project. We work very hard within our industry to educate code officers, builders and consumers alike, while knowing that our role is still service to our communities, both large and small, through maintaining these minimum standards of building construction. Thank you very much for your time.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Fiske

Saco, Maine