

Comments in opposition to LD 427

March 6, 2025

Presented By

Ross Cunningham, Economic and Community Development Director, Town of Lisbon

Good morning. My name is Ross Cunningham and I am the Economic and Community Development Director for the Town of Lisbon Maine. I am here today, on behalf of our Town Council, to ask you to reject LD 427

We, like many communities, are facing a housing shortage and are actively reviewing our requirements for new units. We agree that it is imperative to review the parking requirements that we place on developers and we are cognizant of the need to adjust these requirements to provide for an increase in housing and density.

Lisbon however, does not currently have the benefit of readily available public transportation. Out of curiosity, I recently tried to order an Uber in Lisbon and the wait was excessive and the cost prohibitive.

Our Planning board recently submitted a change to the Town Council requesting a reduction of our parking requirements. It's important to note that this suggested change is limited to our Village Zones where we are working on creating walkable regions.

To ask Lisbon to follow the same guidelines as all other communities such as Portland would put us in an impossible situation that would allow developers to build units without parking. This would require our community to work to provide public or on street parking in areas that are just not cut out for this. In the last 2 months we have had 4 parking bans. During these events, residents without private parking struggled to find places to store their vehicle.

In closing, while this issue is vital to address, it is not a "one size fits all" problem and I encourage you to reject LD 427 and allow the issue to be addressed at a local level.