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LD 445

I am writing in opposition to LD 445. This bill would affect most Maine municipalities since there are only about 2 dozen in the State that have over 10,000 people. It would also result in people living in substandard, inefficient houses, driving up their energy bills and the cost of maintenance. This places an unacceptable burden on homeowners and places the cost of living further out of reach for Mainers.

Additionally, reducing compliance with energy efficiency standards will cause the State to fall behind on its climate goals since increasing energy efficiency in buildings is one of the best ways to reduce the carbon emissions from building heating and cooling.

Instead of not enforcing rules that have important purposes, why not put more funding towards code enforcement in small towns, or come up with a different system for code enforcement so that it doesn't fall on the shoulders of each individual municipality? Counties in other states take on much more responsibility than those in Maine and it's helpful for those towns that are too small to bear the burden for things like code enforcement.

There are certainly some regulations we could look to change in order to reduce the red tape in constructing housing, but this shouldn't be one of them. It's also doubtful that it will actually stimulate housing production that much. It will primarily just end up harming Mainers who will end up living in substandard housing and paying more for heating and cooling.