



Maine Fire Protection Services Commission
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CHIEF DANIEL S BROOKS, CHAIR

Senator Curry, Representative Gere and members of The Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development, on behalf of the Maine Fire Protection Service Commission, we would like to voice our opposition to LD 1272 An Act to Address the Housing Crisis by Reducing Barriers to Building More Accessory Dwelling Units.

The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission is a 23-member Legislative panel created to weigh in on all matters regarding the fire service in the State of Maine. Our founding responsibilities include: “Evaluation of existing fire prevention, fire suppression, fire safety and fire training strategies and programs” as well as “Recruitment and retention of volunteers”.

While this bill appears to improve living conditions by increasing the number of housing units, in reality, it increases unsafe housing conditions by reducing the safeguards that have been engineered to provide protection to the those who either live in or near these units. This is especially true for communities who rely on volunteer or limitedly staffed departments to provide fire protection. This legislation purposely restricts sprinkler ordinances which are designed for the exact reasons this bill is trying to address by adding more housing units per lot and more living quarters in existing housing. The more individuals a particular building houses or a larger number of living units on smaller lots, are the exact reasons sprinkler systems are required to protect a larger loss of life in a confined space.

We suggest that members could review the report pursuant to LD 1364 of the 130th Legislature, A Resolve, to Study Incentives for Residential Fire Sprinkler Systems. This report to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal

Justice and Public Safety not only addresses the many incentives regarding the use of residential sprinklers, it also outlines many facts and statistics regarding sprinklers currently in use here in Maine.

Therefore, the Maine Fire Protection Service Commission vehemently opposes LD 1272 and the risks to the citizens of Maine that this legislation would create. Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Yours in service,
Chief Dan Brooks
Chair, Maine Fire Protection Services Commission