

Liz Trice
Portland

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Chairs and Members of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development;

My name is Liz Trice, I've lived most of my life in Maine, and have a masters' degree from the Muskie School in Public Policy and Community Development. Most of my work is thinking about how to build housing affordably in existing towns and neighborhoods to increase vibrancy and walkability, while protecting our prized natural places including forest, farms, and coastline.

I'm writing to support LR 289.

I want to live in a state of vibrant small towns, farms, and forests, and believe we can have that if we plan for it. We need to invest more in densifying our small towns rather than sprawling across farms and forests. For that to happen, our towns need flexible ways to plan for development that make sense to them. I believe LR 289 will help with that.

LR 289 is incredibly flexible, and allows towns to use the data that represents what's important to them to plan for what's important for their towns. LR 289 removes onerous mandates from towns and will help communities engage in meaningful conversations around housing and updating local regulations to align with their objectives.

I am willing to assist the committee in any way that is helpful. Thank you.

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