

Historic Thomaston Resource Group
Town of Thomaston, Maine

Date: 10 May 2021

To: Rep. Anne Matlack

Fr: Margaret McCrea, Chair Historic Thomaston Resource Group
cruzinart@gmail.com

Subject: LD 1694 The Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority
Hearing Thursday 13 May 9:30 a.m.

Thomaston has many 19th century dwellings that are in need of preservation, many of which are threatened by loss due to lack of private market support.

Currently, a desire for affordable housing in Thomaston far exceeds demand. This bill would help stave off further crisis while saving and protecting valuable housing inventory as well as protecting Thomaston's architectural heritage.

If we are to maintain our status as a relatively unchanged Greek Revival Maine Village, we must pursue every avenue of available resources to assure this valuable housing stock contributes to both the desperate need for housing and the need for preservation.

Our town has set aside an area for growth but we are constantly forced to guard our rural lands from over development. Through either a lack of understanding or disregard for ordinance protection of our natural resources, it is imperative that these sensitive environments continue to be protected. A land bank working group would help raise awareness and reinforce the need for such protection before it is too late and irreversible damage has been done.

An important bill such as this would be instrumental in attaining our goals.