To Senate Chair Daughtry, House Chair Sylvester, and the Committee on Labor and Housing:

My name is Lucas Blom Ankhartz. I'm about to graduate from U Maine - Orono with a master's in information systems. More stressful than finding a job is the daunting prospect of finding a place to rent and hopefully, in a few years' time, a home to buy. LD 2003 will open a path for me and my wife to stay in the state that we love.

This bill will open single family lots to grow to up to four units, incentivize building affordable housing that will remain affordable for a generation, enable single family homeowners to add accessory dwelling units, and prioritize denser housing. The towns along the coast can make their towns denser without changing the character of their town. With great foresight, the bill includes the creation of a statewide committee to remove growth caps. Communities have proven that they cannot self-regulate, and this bill has the potential to expand access to good school districts across the socioeconomic spectrum.

Economic realities have changed. Maine can only prosper if we make it easy for people to live here. LD 2003 will give us the chance to put down roots in a community and grow them. We hope to build a multigenerational home so that one day my family can live together, including my disabled brother-in-law with a caregiver, as well as my aging in-laws.

Short-sighted zoning excludes so many young families in Southern Maine. I have seen neighbors go after neighbors for building ADUs to house their adult children and grandchildren. We had dreams about living in Cape Elizabeth. Those dreams were smashed by exclusive zoning and prejudice against affordable housing for families financially locked out of single-family housing like mine. Upon closer inspection, there are no Mainers who can sustain life without younger workers and families working, earning, and spending. These exclusive practices are going to harm all Mainers. **I urge you to support LD 2003.**

Lucas Blom Ankhartz
Bangor, ME

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LD 2003

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