

Crystal Canney
Portland
LD 2003

Good Morning,
Distinguished members of the Labor and Housing Committee,
I am writing in support of LD 2003.

The need to expand affordable housing is paramount in Maine right now. I recently worked on a project in Cape Elizabeth around affordable housing where the developer, after pushback from a vocal group opposing the project, discontinued the project. I heard a lot from residents about why this project shouldn't move forward - it was too big, it didn't fit with the "character" of the community, and it would ruin a town center that is really just a town hall, a bench, flagpole and a boulder. I also heard much from residents who could afford to live there about not wanting "these kinds of people" to infiltrate the town. I am kindly quoting right now from the many comments I heard. And at the end of all this is the impact on good people. Parents who want better for the next generation. It starts with an affordable place to live.

I hope LD 2003 passes and there is an equitable way to look at housing. Cape is by no means alone but it was an up close look for me about how dire this situation really is and the need for communities to welcome new people in. Thanks, Crystal Canney