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Amended testimony: Added Planning Board affiliation

As a member of the Town of Denmark, Maine Planning Board I acknowledge the statewide housing crisis but am concerned about the provisions of the Affordable Housing Commission Bill including the erosion of local decision-making authority, the one-size-fits-all approach, and the speed with which these recommendations would be implemented, without study of the impacts on municipal infrastructure, resident relations, or natural resources, to name a few.

No two municipalities are alike. Absent in this version of the bill is support for the local ingenuity necessary to ensure that plans can be implemented in each community. I strongly believe local control can be respected while simultaneously honoring the commitment to increasing levels of affordable housing in all communities.

Far more study is needed to understand the many impacts of such legislation. That further study would be expected to yield a more equitable bill with flexibility for proper implementation in our various communities.

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