

March 7, 2022

## **LD 2003 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions.**

Good Morning Senator Daughtry, Representative Sylvester and esteemed members of the Labor and Housing Committee.

I am Kandie Cleaves a resident of Garland and I am here today to testify **in favor of LD 2003.**

Over the past many years, I have had an opportunity to be involved with many boards and groups that do policy work around poverty and disability as well as the local Planning Board in my own community. Through this work housing issues have always come up.

Sadly, I have frequently noticed that discrimination and concern for one's own property values seem to get into the way of solving the affordable housing shortages.

I am certain those before me have quoted statistics and rather than repeat them I want to ask you instead to think about what kind of America you want us to live in? Do you want us to value a person's wealth over a person's right to have affordable housing opportunities or even any housing opportunity at all? In a country that wants to keep claiming to be free and want less government, why do I and others as taxpayers already not have a right use our property to create housing opportunities that will benefit society as a whole if we choose, rather than others have a right to protect their individual wealth?

Isn't it ironic that on any given day people can be found risking their own housing security in Federal and private rentals by allowing someone to crash on their couch for more days than their lease allows, while others who already have more secure housing keep hitting the repeat on the phrase, " Not in my neighborhood".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kandie Cleaves

Garland