

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

My name is Rosie Hoffman Ankhartz. My husband is about to graduate from U Maine-Orono with a master's in information systems. I am in graduate school to become a speech therapist. My husband and I want to grow a family in Maine but we cannot find affordable housing near major employers. **I urge you to support LD 2003**, which will enable homeownership for hard-working young Mainers like us.

This bill will create a statewide committee to remove growth caps, allow for accessory dwelling units, greenlight quadraplexes on single-family lots, and prioritize the creation of affordable housing that will remain affordable. It will prioritize denser housing without changing the character of our picturesque seaside towns. It will open possibilities for Mainers who want to stay in this beautiful state.

Mainers cannot prosper unless young families can afford to live here. We want to build housing for ourselves, my disabled brother, and my aging parents. Who will oversee care for my brother and parents if we are pushed out of the state?

It seems that in Cumberland and York counties that the zoning excludes so many young families. There is prejudice against those who are financially locked out of single-family housing. Instead of prioritizing hard young workers like us, there is a favored special class of people who already own single-family homes, locking striving Mainers like myself out. At present, we cannot afford housing in a good school district. My husband and I want to grow our family. We want to use our education to work, earn, and spend money here. We ask that Maine step up to support families like ours.

Rosie Hoffman Ankhartz  
Bangor, ME