

Dee Miller
Bridgton, Maine
LD 2003

LD2003 has a worthy intent but the one-size-fits-all application is counter productive. There is no room for local governments to ensure whether the additional housing is safe and healthy. Water use, wastewater disposal, parking, noise, solid waste disposal, providing education and other services are local issues that require local decisions. The stress placed on residential lots can have the same outcome as stress placed on single buildings when divided into rental units — creation of slums. This in turn can negatively impact value of nearly or abutting property.

Zoning ordinances promote orderly organization of communities and protect property of those who invest in them. These local ordinances are the result of local decisions and local choices. To consider that the State of Maine, even for the best of intentions, would want to impose itself on local governance is appalling, especially since our state has nurtured and protected the ideals of individual self-determination for two centuries.

Affordable housing is a worthy goal but must not be approached in a manner that challenges individual property rights, personal expression, and self government.

There are local communities all over the state that are encouraging the creation of safe and affordable housing. Instead of interfering by imposing rules, the state should be invested in helping communities find their own, locally supported solutions.