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Statement by Penny Morrell, Chairman
Belgrade Republican Party

To Members of the Labor and Housing Committee

Regarding L.D. 2003, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions"

March 7, 2022

Sen. Daughtry, Rep. Sylvester, and members of the Labor and Housing Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I'm Penny Morrell, Chairman of the Belgrade Republican Party.

I oppose L.D. 2003, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions."

Belgrade is a tourist town with seven (7) lakes in our region. We are a small, rural, and beautiful town with small farms. We have our own zoning ordinances and have worked hard over the years to comply with state requirements in that regard.

This bill is a bridge too far because it seeks to override our local ordinances with a state top-down mandate for high-rise buildings to house multi-family units. That could eat up our fields and make Belgrade look like a city.

Our country is already breaking the law by allowing illegal aliens in. Portland has declared itself a sanctuary city and is taking in these law breakers. At taxpayer expense, the illegals are being housed, clothed and fed. That is unfair, unconstitutional, and must stop.

Belgrade must not become Portland, Maine or be invaded by non-citizens. We must not, by this law being passed, be required to change our zoning laws to accommodate/comply with state unfunded mandates that would ultimately harm our town and make it unrecognizable to our tourists, much less undesirable. That would hurt our economy, businesses, and environment.

For these reasons, and many others you will hear today, I implore you to reject this bill and vote "ought not to pass" on L.D. 2003.