

Tony Owens
Cape Elizabeth
LD 2003

Members of the Labor and Housing Committee;

I am writing in opposition to LD 2003. I will stand first in line to acknowledge a crisis in affordable housing and our need to address it. I know in my community of Cape Elizabeth, many of us who opposed a recent for profit, high density apartment building in our town center are also those testifying before the Town Council to form an Ad Hoc citizen's committee to explore creative solutions that best fit our town's needs and available resources. Many citizens who also opposed the above development have come forward with thoughtful and creative ideas, not based on profit but rather on creating pathways to home ownership and integration into our community. This bill assumes that a commission will know what is best for each community, frequently without even local representation. Before approving such an authoritarian approach give Maine communities a chance to find our own solutions. Admittedly we have been initially slow to respond, but there is a new momentum that needs the opportunity to perform. You all know better than most, that Mainers care about our neighbors, and given the opportunity and resources will find logical and compassionate solutions.

Thank you for your service