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Farmingdale, ME
LD 2003

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

I believe that L. D. 2003 Is intended to help encourage and streamline affordable housing. I am particularly interested in improvements to the law regarding ADUs. I am currently in the planning and design phase of adding one on at my house in Farmingdale where I live with my daughter and her children. I have run in to one very frustrating example of red tape that serves absolutely no purpose except to add meaningless cost to my project.

The unit I am planning will have 1 bedroom, a kitchenette and 1 bathroom with a composting toilet. The ADU will not even be connected to my septic system and because of the composting toilet will actually decrease the load on the septic, since I already live in the main house and now use only a traditional toilet. However, because of his interpretation of existing rules, the town planning officer informed me that I will be required to upgrade my septic system because of the added bedroom.

The time, effort and cost of the septic upgrade is a ridiculous burden that is hampering my plan to finish this project quickly with little or no debt. In fact I believe construction rules/laws should be encouraging upgrades like mine that actually reduce water usage and cut down on the load of septic systems.

Please consider adding language to this bill to say that an ADU constructed with no septic connection and using Composting toilets does not require upgrading the septic system for the added bedroom(s). It can include a provision saying that upgrades may be required if a connection is added later.

While I don't expect this would be done in time to help me this year, unless it is feasible to do as a rule change instead of a law, I do believe it will help others going forward.