

As Chair of the Denmark, Maine Conservation Commission, I acknowledge the statewide housing crisis, but am concerned about the provisions of the Affordable Housing Commission Bill including the erosion of local decision-making authority, the one-size-fits-all approach, and the speed with which these recommendations would be implemented, without study of the impacts on municipal infrastructure, resident relations, or natural resources, to name a few.

No two municipalities are alike. Absent in this version of the bill is support for the local ingenuity necessary to ensure that plans can be implemented in each community. I strongly believe local control can be respected while simultaneously honoring the commitment to increasing levels of affordable housing in all communities.

Terry Rhoads
Denmark
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Terry Rhoads, Chair, Denmark Conservation Commission
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