

Pauline Wilcox
CAPE ELIZABETH
LD 2003

Dear Labor and Housing Committee:

I live in Cape Elizabeth. I moved here in 2000 and our family has property elsewhere in Maine, originally purchased in 1949.

I am a masters prepared Social Worker. I currently work with Senior Citizens. Years ago I worked as a medical social worker with families and their sick children. My clients have always been more culturally diverse than the general Maine population.

I am totally opposed to LD 2003. I was shocked when Mr. Szanton was quoted in the newspaper saying close to these words after the Cape signatures called for a referendum on the further development of Dunham Court, " Cape Elizabeth does not want to develop affordable housing in their town." That is NOT true. The referendum gatherers learned that Cape Citizens do want more affordable housing as was laid out in our Town Comprehensive Plan. Cape citizens do not want the project proposed by Mr. Szanton, which includes 4 and possibly 5 Town zoning changes to move forward on the development.

He mischaracterized the entire town's views with that statement which confuses our real concerns and our citizens' views for the future. I guess he saw us as an easy target.

We in Maine and yes New England have a kind of courage less often seen in the face of New ideas. We welcome new ideas, but we want them thought out and to reflect our local needs. The HP-1489, LD 2003 leaves Maine, and our local towns subject to the rule of legislators and persons not fully acquainted with our local issues over our town governance and town planning. Under no circumstances, vote in this bill if you are trying to maintain the rich fabric of Maine governance by the local towns growing into different living situations.

There are ways to integrate new citizens to our state and this authoritarian approach of LD 2003 will lead to retaliation or fleeing the state which we can hardly afford.

Please work with local citizenry, please do not add a more cumbersome aggressive legal approach which will lead to resentment of the very people we are trying to integrate into our State's communities.

I'm short on time tonight, but would be glad to talk to you if you would like.

Sincerely yours,
Pauline Wilcox (207-272-6841)