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LD 2146

I write in support of the bill with one modification. As written, it applies exclusively to Portland, Lewiston, and Bangor, the only three municipalities in Maine currently meeting the population threshold of 30,000. If enacted as it currently stands, the bill would allow the neighboring cities of South Portland, Auburn, and Brewer to enact moratoria, potentially driving homeless into their larger neighbors.

I believe the prohibition should apply statewide, but I also appreciate the necessity for allowing smaller towns with limited resources the time to gather the necessary information to make informed decisions.

A quick review of Maine municipal populations suggests that the prohibition should apply to municipalities larger than 9,000. This would prevent a possible conflict between Brunswick and Topsham, but unfortunately not between Waterville and Winslow, the only other municipal pair I see straddling a 9,000-population cutoff. Given the disparity in populations (Waterville has twice the population of Winslow), this may not create as large a problem as it would between Lewiston and Auburn.

Thank you for considering this suggestion.