

Sharon Connors
Kennebunk
LD 2167

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing with my concerns about LD 2167.

Based on my own efforts to search for a home for my niece and her husband this past fall, we have a real housing problem. In southern Maine there were very few homes available for less than \$350,000. The homes that they visited were in need of so much work for that price as well. Ultimately, they bought a small first home in NH. My concern is how would you create enough housing for the immigrants?

From the Maine Wire, “Maine is in the middle of an unprecedented housing shortage, a shortage that has been severely exacerbated by the pandemic-driven surge in legal migration of some 35,000 mostly well-to-do Americans and the couple thousands migrants claiming asylum.

According to housing inventory metrics tracked by the St. Louis Federal Reserve, Maine had 2,439 houses available for sale in June — down from nearly 14,000 at the end of 2016.

On MaineListings.com, there are currently 1,422 active residential listings for less than \$300,000.”

Maine really does not have enough housing for younger Americans to come here or to return to Maine to work and live. It seems that only the people from NYC or the Boston area can afford my area in Kennebunk. I believe we will see student enrollment decline in our schools.

If your plan is to replace Mainers then that is very discouraging because many want to return but are going to find it financially impossible.

I think this administration is not thinking about its own citizens and how to manage a situation that may actually already be at the point of overwhelming our systems in Maine.

Sincerely,
Sharon Connors