

Jessica Sullivan
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LD 2003

I write in opposition to LD2003.

This bill proposes statewide one-size-fits-all draconian and frankly communistic mandates that would completely remove home rule from local communities and local taxpayers. Towns should maintain the ability to address and implement their own changes to local zoning. Maine's communities are incredibly diverse; what may work well in Auburn or Westbrook may not work well in Kennebunkport or Cape Elizabeth. LD2003 would nullify municipal Comprehensive Plans that themselves are mandated by state law. Comprehensive Plans are developed to plan for growth where growth won't stress local infrastructure such as sewer treatment facilities, and to prevent growth from impacting endangered habitats, protected wetlands, and ever diminishing open space and farmland. A disturbing recommendation to "appointment of a statewide appeals board that can overrule local decisions" further illustrates the dangers of LD2003. A statewide appeals board of appointed not elected people would have the power to overrule local zoning laws which have been approved by local voters and taxpayers. LD2003 "ought not to pass".