

HB 1005 – Repealing the zoning enabling act study commission (3:30 pm)

Position: Opposition (ITL)

Bill Summary: This bill repeals the commission to study the historical evolution of the New Hampshire zoning enabling act.

Full Testimony

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee --

We are a state that values freedom so deeply that we slap the words “or Die” on our license plates, then get behind the wheel and whiz about on roads where people from Massachusetts are allowed to drive.

Compared to the other forty-nine objectively less awesome states – and I specify forty-nine because some people may try to count Greenland – The Cato Institute ranks us first in freedom overall. Go us.

But they also rank us thirty-ninth in where and how people are allowed to live. Sad!

Fortunately, what we lack in land use freedom we make up for with a surfeit of very smart people in very smart suits asking very smart questions –

Questions like: “Gee, why DON'T we have enough housing?”

The commission this bill seeks to repeal does not propose change. It proposes curiosity. On the 100th anniversary of our zoning law, it modestly asks whether a century of accrued power might merit a little introspection.

Repealing a commission for asking, “Have we made any mistakes?” strikes me, frankly, as daring and brave. I wish I could go through life with that level of self-confidence. If our zoning framework is working well, the study will show that. If it isn't, we should want to know.

I urge the committee to vote ITL.

Cheekily submitted,

Christopher M. Freeman | Executive Manager

Belltower Property Management | Keene, NH 03431

Phone: 603.803.5665 | E-mail: cfreeman@belltowerpm.com | www.belltowerpm.com