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February 24, 2022

Kittery Planning Board  
200 Rogers Road  
Kittery, ME 03904

Dear Planning Board Members-

I am writing in support of the amendments to the BL/BL-1 zones that are in front of you this evening. These changes will help remove significant barriers to the development of affordable housing in our community and incentivize the addition of modestly priced units to our scant housing stock. Furthermore, through applying the town's affordable housing policy to these zones, we guarantee that new housing units will benefit those from various income strata.

These amendments are the result of thorough vetting by multiple, pertinent committees, including unanimous approval by the Kittery Housing Committee. While each group has their own unique charge, the underlying impetus for proposing these changes is universal and unquestionable: the need for more affordable housing options in our community.

It is well understood that restrictive zoning is one of the primary impediments to addressing this issue. The planning board voted to adopt almost identical changes to the C-1 and C-3 zones in the fall of 2020, which were then moved onto the Town Council and incorporated into the code with no contest. This clearly demonstrates precedent and support for changes of this nature.

As the gatekeepers to our town's land use code, I encourage you to pass these changes which will provide far reaching, and long-lasting benefits to our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily Flinkstrom, MSW  
Executive Director, Fair Tide  
Vice-Chair, Kittery Housing Committee  
Kittery Citizen, 12 Buckley Way

*A long-term solution to homelessness*