

The establishment of the Housing Appeals Board has denied communities reasonable and realistic due process.

New Hampshire's towns and municipalities are now forced to defend their duly voted upon Master Plans, Zoning Ordinances, and local land-use decisions at the Supreme Court, not the Superior Court.

Given the broad authorities granted to this three-person appointed panel, it will be virtually impossible to contest any decision by the Housing Appeals Board because a municipality must demonstrate that an error of law has occurred to overturn a decision at the Supreme Court level. The HAB can decide that duly voted upon ordinances are not reasonable and realistic.

The House Judiciary Committee voted 18-0 against this sweeping legislation. The method by which the establishment of the Housing Appeals Board was adopted was simply undemocratic by bypassing a House vote. Now the broad powers granted to this appointed board to overturn local land-use decisions is simply undemocratic.

I urge you to repeal the establishment of the Housing Appeals Board.

Thank you,

*Lisa J. Wilson*

*I serve as Chair of the North Hampton Conservation Commission and served as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment.*