

My name is Nancy Monaghan, I live in North Hampton and am Vice Chair of the North Hampton Planning Board.

I'm here to ask that you repeal the Housing Appeals Board and work instead to identify the real problem. To my knowledge there is no data to show which Planning Boards in which communities in New Hampshire have committed such errors that affordable housing developments have been improperly denied.

Does anyone know how often if ever this has happened? Does anyone know where in New Hampshire this has happened? Has anyone searched court records to determine if any of these so-called improper denials have been successfully appealed? Does anyone even know how often any given Planning Board has even had an application for affordable housing?

The Housing Appeals Board is the wrong fix for a problem that doesn't appear to have been quantified. It is a fix that will give one special interest group the power to have development – not just affordable housing development but all housing development – their way, without regard to local Zoning Ordinances duly passed by citizens in every town in New Hampshire.

Punishing Planning Boards that have done nothing wrong and taking away local decision making will not advance the effort to build more affordable housing. Please repeal this well-intended fix and study some real data to determine how best to address the issue you want to fix.

Nancy Monaghan
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