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Testimony before
The House Transportation/Land Use and Infrastructure Committee
January 13, 2021
In support of HB 18

I'm 86 and I've lived for about 60 years in Delaware. Following my husband's death in 2018, I felt I needed to move out of our 2,800 square foot home in Pike Creek to a smaller home, a home where I could walk or bike or take a bus to the places I needed to go. I can't count the number of widow ladies I know who have stayed on in their large homes in the suburbs because there's no place else to go...except to some far away expensive assisted-living facility.

Five Points down in Lewes would have been a good place to live, with lots of walking and shopping opportunities, but I know only a few people down there. I've lived near the University most of my life, and this is where I wanted to retire.

After looking for about a year I finally settled on Washington House, on Main Street, in Newark. It's 1,800 square feet. Even though it's 1,000 square feet smaller than my old home, I still had to take out a new mortgage in order to pay for the gap between the big home cost and the smaller condo cost. There were simply no other cheaper places to live in a walkable, bikeable community, and close to decent transit in the Newark area. I am fortunate that I had the financial resources to make this move. But it's not right that moving to a **smaller** home in a walkable community should be so expensive that most of my 86 year-old peers would not be able to do it. There is, obviously, a huge and unmet demand (look at how expensive my condo was!) for this kind of living.

We need to help Delaware's business community to meet this need. That would be good for both our economy and for our seniors. That's what HB 18 is about. The League urges the committee's support of this bill.

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