

Thomas DuBois
Salem Township
LD 870

My name is Thomas DuBois. I am a current member of the Land Use Planning Commission, and live in Salem Township, an unorganized territory located in Franklin County. I am writing as an individual, and do not represent the commission with my views. I am writing in opposition to LD 870 for three reasons. First, the proposed legislation upsets the balance of the voices on the commission by providing the Governor with five appointees. This flies in the face of the purpose of the rework of the commission completed in 2011, that provided a local voice that had been lacking. Second, the timeline change for the counties to find, vet, and submit proposed commissioners to this committee is incredibly short, with no explanation as to why this would be necessary, leaving all to wonder if this may simply be an effort to increase the Governor's influence on this commission. Third, in my one year of serving on this commission, I have seen nothing that says to me, "we do not have enough people on this commission". In fact, in all my years attending planning boards all over the State of Maine, I never presented a project to a board larger than seven members. It appears to me that this bill is looking to "fix" a problem that does not really exist. I would urge the committee to vote "ought not to pass".