

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 1155 “An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice”

April 2, 2025

TO: Honorable Members of the State & Local Government Committee

FR: Ryan D. Pelletier, County Administrator, Aroostook County

Dear Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury & Distinguished Members of the Committee:

My name is Ryan Pelletier and I serve as the County Administrator of Aroostook County. I am here today to testify in support of LD 1155, An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice.

I won't take a lot of your time, except to tell you, that I did a search on Maine.Gov to find the people who are currently serving as Dedimus Justices here in Aroostook County. I, myself am one of those individuals.

What I found was quite alarming. In my area of Aroostook County (the St. John Valley in northern Aroostook) there are a total of 25 individuals listed as Dedimus Justices with 15 of them either being retired or deceased. There is no accountability.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important legislation and I encourage you to support a unanimous Ought to Pass recommendation.