



Town Of / Municipalité de
Fort Kent

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April 3, 2025

Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

Senator FARRIN of Somerset

Representative ARDELL of Monticello,

Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield,

Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent,

Representative SWALLOW of Houlton,

Representative WOOD of Greene.

RE: Support for LD 1278 – An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process

Dear Senator Farrin, Representative Underwood and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Town of Fort Kent, I write to express strong support for LD 1278, *An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process*. This legislation is crucial in ensuring a fair and consistent process for property tax appeals, particularly for nonresidential properties and those with an equalized municipal valuation of \$1,000,000 or greater.

Under the current system, applicants may appeal property tax decisions to county commissioners, creating inconsistencies in the review process and placing an administrative burden on local and county governments. LD 1278 would establish a streamlined and uniform process by requiring these appeals to be made directly to the State Board of Property Tax Review, which is better equipped to handle such cases with the necessary expertise and impartiality.

For municipalities like Fort Kent, this will improve efficiency in handling appeals and ensure that large-scale property tax disputes are reviewed at the appropriate level. It would also help protect local tax bases, ensuring that municipalities can continue to provide essential services without the uncertainty caused by an inconsistent appeals process.

We strongly urge your support for LD 1278 and encourage the Legislature to pass this important reform. If you have any questions or would like further input on how this bill would positively impact municipalities like Fort Kent, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your time and consideration, I can be reached at sparadis@fortkent.org, with questions.

Sincerely,

Suzie Paradis

Town Manager, Fort Kent

The Little Town that Could!