

**Testimony by Ryan D. Pelletier, Aroostook County  
Administrator in Support of LD 1278 & LD 1325**

**Sen. Grohoski, Chair  
Rep. Cloutier, Chair  
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333**

**Re: *LD 1278, An Act to Change the Property Tax  
Appeal Process &***

***LD 1325, An Act to Create Clarity in the Laws  
Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals***

**Chair Grohoski, Chair Cloutier, and Members of the  
Joint Standing Committee on Taxation:**

**My name is Ryan Pelletier and I am the County  
Administrator for Aroostook County. I am here today  
to testify in support of the two bills identified that will  
ensure taxpayer rights to appeal property  
assessments are conducted fairly and appropriately  
by qualified individuals who are best suited to hear  
such appeals.**

**While I have served in my current role for 8 years; I  
previously served a total of 14 years as a local town**

**manager in three different communities here in Aroostook County. The last community I managed was Madawaska. Madawaska is a full service community in the St. John Valley home to Twin Rivers Paper Company. I can't fathom any possibility of a fair and adequate appeal if Twin Rivers wanted to bring an appeal before the elected Board of County Commissioners. The complexity of that type of assessment requires the knowledge and understanding of professionals trained in that field. For the most part, County commissioners are dedicated public elected officials that come from all walks of life, no different than elected town council members or members of the legislature for that matter.**

**The idea that these elected commissioners are in a position to analyze and rule on the complexities of large commercial, industrial properties was never the intention of the law in my opinion.**

**These two legislative proposals seek to remedy what I believe to be a misunderstanding in current statute and ensure that non-residential property appeals over \$1,000,000 in value are properly heard before the State Board of Property Tax Review where they are best suited to be heard.**

**I encourage the members of this committee to consider these reasons and vote to support one or both of these bills unanimously.**

**I am happy to answer any questions committee members may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.**