

Regarding:
LD 1556 - Resolve, Regarding Increasing the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners
and
LD 1884 - Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, Honorable members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

My name is Laura Whitcomb, I live in Sidney, Kennebec County, and have served as the Chair of the Town of Sidney Budget Committee for the last five years.

Before you are two proposals to allow the voting residents of Kennebec County to increase the amount of County Commissioners from 3 (three) to 5 (five).

I believe the most important aspect of these bills, aside from their merits, is that you would be allowing the citizens of Kennebec County to vote on whether or not they would like to have an increase in commissioners.

Kennebec County is comprised of a very diverse group of people, is home to the State Capital, and is the only county in the State that has municipalities in both the First and Second Congressional Districts. This group of varied individuals, cities, towns and townships.

Other counties with smaller populations have more than three commissioners.

It is also concerning that a quorum can be achieved with only two members present. While this bill addresses only Kennebec County, I would assume this might be troublesome for all State Counties.

As the assigned representation of each of the proposed five commissioners would be less, I feel strongly that part of any changes in statute, if possible, would provide that the existing allocation of total funds for the salaries of the current three commissioners be re-allocated, splitting them amongst the new number of commissioners.

Please allow the voting population of Kennebec County to have the option of increasing our number of commissioners, giving us the ability to have adequate representation and increased transparency.

Please vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Laura Whitcomb
Sidney, Maine