

Peter Joseph
Representing: Town of York
LD 2214

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for taking the time to review LD 2214 “An Act to Confirm and Finalize the Boundary Between the Town of Kittery and the Town of York.” As you may be aware, the exact location of the boundary between Maine’s two oldest towns has been a somewhat contentious local issue for several years now. Although unfortunate, this dispute is not completely unexpected when dealing with a boundary shown on maps, descriptions, and land records which precede the creation of our nation and our state by a wide margin.

In late 2024, instead of continuing the debate of ‘how’, ‘when’, and ‘where’ the observed municipal boundary has varied from the line originally described by colonial authorities, the municipal officers of both Towns agreed to make a good faith effort to formalize the boundary in its most recently observed location. To achieve these ends, the Towns jointly hired a licensed professional to survey the approximately 4.2 mile long boundary, and to develop both a plan view and a ‘metes and bounds’ description of the currently observed boundary line. This work was completed over the summer and fall of last year.

Late last year, this boundary description was reviewed and endorsed by the York Selectboard, with the expressed purpose of submission to the Legislature to aid in the confirmation of the municipal boundary between the Town of York and the Town of Kittery. The Town of York respectfully requests the support of your Committee as well as the full Legislature on LD 2214, which we hope will finally resolve this outstanding matter. Representatives of the Town plan to attend your hearing on March 4th at 10:30am by video conference, and would be happy to provide any additional information or answer any questions that the Committee may have at that time.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Joseph
Town Manager
Town of York, Maine