



City of Auburn, Maine

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**TESTIMONY OF CITY MANAGER PHILLIP L. CROWELL, Jr.,
CITY OF AUBURN**

**(Opposition Of) LD 360
"An Act to Amend the Androscoggin Charter"**

BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

HEARING DATE: May 16, 2023 at 1:00 P.M. in Room 214, Cross Building

Good afternoon, Senator Nangle, Representative Stover, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government. Thank you for the opportunity to come before you today. My name is Phil Crowell, City Manager for the City of Auburn. I urge the committee to vote against this bill introduced by Senator Timberlake.

In 1854, after Androscoggin County was formed, the citizens from the cities of Lewiston and Auburn voted to determine which city would serve as the county seat. The citizens selected the City Auburn to have this distinction.

As was done in 1854, if there is going to be a change to the county seat, it should be placed on referendum and the citizens of Androscoggin County should make this determination. It should not be at the whim of a majority of county commissioners who may have a political spat with a city. It is the responsibility of the citizens to determine these matters.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today. I will gladly answer any questions that you may have, either at this public hearing or at a future work session.