



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Senator Carney, Representative Kuhn and Esteemed Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary, I am Mathew McIntyre and I humbly serve as the newest Representative for Maine's House District 18 comprising 16 towns and four Unorganized Territories spanning portions of Penobscot, Hancock and Washington counties. Today I offer testimony as a cosponsor in strong support of **LD # 16**, "An Act to Establish Separate Prosecutorial Districts in Downeast Maine".

I believe it is important that I explain how I came to my decision to support this Bill. Because of my previous career paths and experiences, I have made the bulk of the decisions in my adult life based primarily on technical analysis, or military and law enforcement training, or a combination thereof. I am admittedly a geek who carried a sidearm in the performance of my previous duties, and my decision processes rested heavily on either data and scientific specifications, or proverbial "gut instincts" that were honed through a series of real-life scenarios which conditioned me to rely on ingrained reactive responses to hazards or threats. It was rare that I would pay attention to emotional aspects of situations I was involved in.

Then I ran my first campaign. During my journey of the last 12 months, including almost 15,000 miles traveled in Washington County alone, I learned a whole lot about what is now my district to represent, but perhaps most importantly, I learned about the critical value of truly listening to people.

When one person expresses their concern or grievance, it may or may not require any action on my part, but they must be heard because it is important to them, and my new job is to represent them. When two people are concerned about the same thing, I need to pay a bit more attention. When dozens, if not hundreds of people say almost exactly the same thing, and all of them come from just three of the 16 Towns that I am knocking on doors in, and all are contained within a single county, clearly, I must respond accordingly.

"Washington County is Maine's forgotten county". I heard this exact phrase countless times, and each time it made me twinge. It is time for us to make concerted efforts to remove this phrase from the vernacular. It is time we work together, as a Legislature that will represent and work for all of Maine. It is time for the voices of Washington County citizens to be heard here in Augusta, and I will spend the next two years doing my part to ensure exactly that.

I guess technically, maybe I am still factoring data in my decision to support this proposal. In this instance I am hearing the volumetric data of the voices of my constituents.

We as legislators are supposed to be able to identify, evaluate and respond to trends. We are supposed to propose legislation in response to the will of the People. We are also supposed to be wise in our allocation of resources to match needs and demands, and to apply a healthy amount of "common sense" in so doing. This Bill presented by Senator Moore is proposing exactly that.

As I close, I also urge you to pay close note to the bipartisan and multi-county representation of the cosponsors on this proposal. I am confident that as you move through work sessions on this Bill, you will easily come to a unanimous "Ought To Pass" consensus.

I humbly request your support of this proposal, and I thank you for your time today.