

**Edward Glaser
Knox County Commissioner, District 1
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Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government:

My name is Ed Glaser and I am a County Commissioner representing Knox County's District 1, and currently the commission chair.

I am here today asking you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2158,

Of all of Maine's counties. Only 2 have directly elected citizens as members, the rest have a mix of municipal officers elected at caucuses.

That puts Knox in the rarefied position of needing local residents who are willing to run for election. Personally, I like the process of having more citizen involvement, but during this last election cycle it didn't work out that well, as in 5 of our districts no one stood for election. That has created the problem we now face, without enough committee members to conduct business.

We are asking you to support this legislation so that the County Commissioners can appoint committee members who have been nominated by their towns to fill the empty seats. As an aside, this is not an outrageous request, as in many counties, committee vacancies are already legally filled by the county commissioners.

I'm also a strong believer in our county charter, so this is just a temporary change, and in the near future we will go back to the voters in Knox County with a few charter changes that will hopefully prevent this from happening again.

Thank you for your time, and again, I respectfully urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2158.