

William Smith
Gorham
LD 1748

Testimony in Opposition to LD 1748: "An Act to Reform the School Budget Referendum Process by Limiting the Circumstances in Which Referenda Occur"

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and the distinguished members of the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs, my name is Bill Smith, I live in Gorham and am a strong advocate for individual liberty and economic freedom in Maine. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to LD 1748.

In each town there are most likely a small but interested, educated and experienced subset of the citizens who actively involve themselves in educational and financial related aspects of local government. Some of them probably get involved by reviewing the school budget. This is the way of representative government: people are active in the areas of government in which they personally have an interest or expertise.

This bill will require those people to continually organize formally to interrupt the lives of the town's citizens, many of whom are already actively involved in other areas of interest with respect to governing, every time a school budget is presented.

This is not how a representative government is supposed to function. This testimony I am writing is proof of that fact.

This bill is basically a recipe for local governance failure by slowly but steadily pushing school district officials farther away from the local taxpayers who fund them.

So I ask you vote AUGHT NOT PASS for LD 1748.

Thank you.