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**Testimony of Senator Harold “Trey” Stewart  
Presenting L.D. 1421, Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and  
Community Development To Update Its Current Priorities under the Northern Border  
Regional Commission’s Allowable Grant Requests to Include Support of  
Population Growth Strategies around the State in Concert with the State’s 10-year  
Economic Development Strategy  
Before the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business  
April 20, 2021**

Senator Curry, Representative Roberts and members of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business: I am Senator Trey Stewart and I have the honor of representing 51 communities in Aroostook and Penobscot Counties. I am before you today to present L.D. 1421, Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development To Update Its Current Priorities under the Northern Border Regional Commission’s Allowable Grant Requests to Include Support of Population Growth Strategies around the State in Concert with the State’s 10-year Economic Development Strategy.

Given that this committee recently passed L.D. 492, An Act to Create a Regional Grant Program to Help Rural Businesses Find Qualified Staff, with unanimous support and the Department of Economic and Community Development has made moves since the time of the filing of this resolve to accomplish the goals therein, I don't believe we need this resolve anymore. With that said, I will invite the committee to address this resolve however you all best see fit and will conclude my testimony here so you can move on to other matters today.

Thank you for your time and help with this matter.