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**Testimony of Senator Russell Black before the Joint Standing Committee on  
State and Local Government**

**March 15, 2021**

*LD 621, An Act to Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners*

Good morning Senator Baldacci, Representative Matlack and members of the Committee on State and Local Government. I am Senator Russell Black and I represent Senate District 17. I am here to provide testimony in support of LD 621, *An Act to Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners*.

I co-sponsored this bill for the same reasons I did last year, as you may be aware this bill passed and was signed by the Governor, but because of some issues in the language, the vote never happened. I have continued to be contacted by a number of selectman and town managers throughout Franklin County who would like to see more county commissioners so their towns have more representation at the county level. This new structure would especially provide more representation for the towns in the northern part of the county.

The towns of Farmington, Eustis, Carrabassett Valley and Rangeley have submitted letters of support for this bill and we are expecting more. I would encourage you to vote ought to pass on this bill and allow the residents of Franklin County to have a vote on if they want to increase the number of County Commissioners from 3 to 5.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.