

Fenwick Fowler  
Farmington

Good morning! Senator Baldacci and Representative Matlack and members of the State and Local Government Committee my name is Fenwick Fowler. I am a resident of Farmington Maine and am writing to support LD 621, An Act to Increase the Number of Franklin County Commissioners.

I am writing to support this bill because it provides more representation for our very rural County. The Bill would increase representation from 3 seats to five seats. Currently just one seat is dedicated to 16 rural Towns and the 4 unorganized territories of Northern Franklin County. This bill would increase that representation to two seats. These 16 communities of Northern Franklin County pay the majority of the taxes to operate the County. These 16 communities also are in greatest need of County services especially for the sheriff's department, and support for their fire departments through Emergency management services and 911. Doubling the representation would provide these communities a greater voice in what is happening to serve their own communities.

Reviewing LD 621 I see that it is cosponsored by both democrats and republicans and supported by most the elected Representatives and Senators covering Franklin County. I take that to mean there is consensus that increasing the number of Commissioners is in the best interest of our respective communities.

I do hope that in your work session you can look at the differences between this bill and the previous bill that became law and ask why each of the changes were made. Ultimately will the Franklin County Commissioners who oppose this bill be able to once again prevent it from being considered in our County ?

Thank you for your consideration.