

John Whitcomb  
Sidney  
LD 1884

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, Members of the Committee on State and Local Government,

I am submitting testimony in favor of LD 1556: Resolve, Regarding Increasing the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners as well as LD 1884: Resolve, to Increase the Number of Kennebec County Commissioners and would ask you to vote Ought to Pass.

I have served on the Sidney Board of Selectmen for over 20 years, the majority of those having been in the role of Chairman.

I know firsthand the amount of time and effort that is put into crafting a municipal budget. The Town of Sidney, with a population just under 5,000 has five selectmen on our board.

It is important that there be enough members on any board, advisory board, or council to adequately spread the amount of work that needs to be done, as well as give the necessary time to the budget that just three people cannot accomplish.

I would go so far as to say that I'd be in favor of increasing the number from three to seven for this reason. However, my advocacy in increasing the number of commissioners does not mean I would advocate for an increase in total compensation. The stipend, as it stands now, should be divided between all of the members, no matter what the total number of commissioners.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
John Whitcomb  
Sidney, Maine