

Douglas Erickson
Thomaston
LD 2158

Senator Baldacci, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Committee: My name is Douglas Erickson, and I serve as Current Member of the Knox County Budget Committee. I am writing to strongly support LD 2158.

The Knox County Charter assigns our committee a critical role in reviewing the budget, but meaningful oversight assumes a functional committee. Currently, we are paralyzed by a structural flaw in the Charter.

The Deadlock We are currently in a "Catch-22": The Charter requires the Budget Committee to appoint its own replacements, but we currently lack the quorum necessary to hold the meeting to do so. We cannot meet to fix the problem because of the problem.

The Solution LD 2158 provides the necessary legislative fix. By allowing the County Commissioners to fill these specific vacancies, we can restore our quorum, get back to work, and ensure Knox County taxpayers have the oversight they deserve.

I respectfully urge you to vote "Ought to Pass" on LD 2158.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Erickson
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