

Testimony of Greg and Lauren Soutiea – Co-owners of the Craignair Inn by the Sea LLC and Causeway Restaurant in St. George, Maine.

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Sen. Baldacci, Rep. Salisbury, and members of the Committee on State and Local Government, my name is Greg Soutiea and together with my wife Lauren Soutiea, we have owned the Award-Winning Craignair Inn by the Sea and Causeway Restaurant in St. George for over 7 years now. We have grown the seasonal restaurant from 7 employees to now over 50 in peak season and a year-round restaurant giving us the opportunity to support 20+ of our staff with year-round jobs.

We would like to testify in support of Representative Pluecker’s bill: An Act to Address Vacancies on the Knox County Budget Committee.

As residents and business owners of Knox County, and as a member of the St. George Budget Committee, we believe it is important to have our county budget committee fully supported not only by our local municipalities, but also by the State. We ask that you support the passage of this emergency bill so that the County may move forward with its budgeting process which will impact all of the local municipal budgets as well.

Having a fully operated Budget Committee at the County level will ensure that there is adequate experience and knowledge in order to put forward a County Budget for the next fiscal year that is in line with local and regional expectations and priorities.

Testimony respectfully submitted on January 16, 2026.