

January 12, 2026

The Honorable Diane Pauer - Chair
Municipal and County Committee
House of Representative
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair Pauer and the Members of the Municipal and County Government Committee,

I have been an informed citizen and homeowner in the town of Orford in central Grafton County for 26 years. I have also served as the Grafton County Register of Deeds for the past 15 years. Today, I speak of my concerns as a citizen, not as register of deeds and I do not speak on behalf of the NH Register of Deeds Association. I am in support of the intent of HB1693.

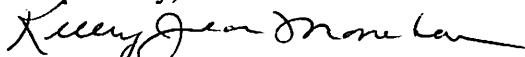
I believe that Grafton County has been in a crisis of failed leadership for many years. Geographically it the size of the State of Rhode Island plus five hundred square miles and getting from here to there is generally via back roads. Lacking any county wide news coverage, the citizens have proven that it is often difficult to know who they are electing to office.

I believe that challenges that we face, as a county and the increasing complexity of managing very different operations far exceed the elected commissioners' ability to properly govern. There is a lack of institutional or pertinent knowledge and increasingly staff is directed to divert their attention from their required workload to research the whims of the Board of Commissioners.

By adding two more members, it would provide a division of labor that would benefit the citizen of Grafton County by providing more dedicated oversight. This current membership has many external obligations and clearly does not devote enough time and effort into solving the issues at hand.

I think that the question of the four-year terms should be separate subject from the redistricting question. I have a full knowledge of the background on these recent efforts, and I would be happy to share at any time. In my opinion, anyone attempting to change law seeking a four-year term is clearly more concerned with the next election than applying effort to their performance in their current term. Thank you for your time and I am happy to answer any questions.

Respectfully,



Kelley Jean Monahan

Orford NH 03777