

Testimony of Frederick McGarry
Board of Selectmen
Town of Deerfield
October 5, 2021

My name is Frederick McGarry and I am a member of the Deerfield Board of Selectmen. The Board has authorized me to speak on its behalf before the Special Committee on Redistricting.

At the Annual Town Election held in June, the Town by a vote of 477 to 233 urged the legislature to “ensure fair and effective representation of New Hampshire voters” and “to minimize multi-seat districts.”

The New Hampshire Constitution, Part 2, Article 11, states “When the population of any town or ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more representative seats.” The 2020 population of Deerfield was 4,855, well in excess of the population requirement of 3,445 for each representative in New Hampshire.

The Deerfield Board of Selectmen received petitions from over 80 voters calling for the Board to advocate for Deerfield's own representative district. Each member of the Committee has a packet with a copy of those petitions. At the August 2 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, the Board voted unanimously to urge the Special Committee on Redistricting to establish a representative district exclusive to Deerfield.

The Deerfield Board of Selectmen concurs with the vote at the Annual Meeting and the petitions it received and urge the Redistricting Committee establish a representative district specific to Deerfield.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony and I'd like to thank the Committee for holding this public hearing and providing New Hampshire citizens the opportunity to offer input into the redistricting process.