

From: Patricia Anastasia, Londonderry NH

To: NH House Legislative Administration Committee

Re: HB 1114 relative to the documentation and preservation of public comment reports by standing legislative committees.

I wholeheartedly support HB 1114. HB 1114 is not a partisan issue. By providing the ability to submit online testimony, the Legislature implies that online testimony is official testimony for a bill and thus part of the official record of the bill. However, currently, this is not the case. In the past, there are numerous instances where there was overwhelming online testimony supporting or opposing a bill, yet the committee vote on that bill did not reflect the strong support or opposition reflected in the online submissions.

NH claims to have the most representative form of legislature, but it is difficult for many NH voters to affect the outcome of legislative votes. It is not possible for many NH voters to attend committee hearings, so we spend a considerable amount of time researching legislation and submitting online testimony. This often feels like an exercise in futility because our online testimony is not considered official testimony. For the most part, my representatives do not respond to my emails about issues that are important to me. When I write directly to committee members about an issue, I am often told to submit online testimony; testimony that the committee does not have to consider.

I urge the members of the Legislative Administration Committee to vote OTP on HB 1114 to help NH voters voices be heard.