

Reps Smith, Griffin and Senator Gray,

At the Carroll County listening session for the Redistricting Committee, I spoke about Hart's Location – "that finger sticking off the top of Carroll County".

Rep. Smith asked me to explain why our town is like that and I didn't think quickly enough to give a cogent answer. Let me briefly explain why our town is this anomalous thin extension and why it is important that we continue to be a part of and related to Carroll County.

Hart's Location, situated in Crawford Notch, is surrounded by uninhabited National Forest. There is no town east of us, that's Hadley's Purchase, and though it is, nominally, Bethlehem & Livermore that sit to the west of us, that too is National Forest.

The headwaters of the Saco River start at the top of Hart's Location. When first established in the late 1700s, Hart's Location was important only because the Notch at our northern boundary allowed commerce to travel from the north and the Saco River defined a clear passage to the sea and to populated towns and cities.

As I noted in my testimony to your Committee, these days and as it has always been, we travel south to Bartlett & the Conways and beyond for commerce and for community connections. Not north. Our geographic affinity is to the communities south of us.

Though that may not be as important in establishing House districts since you must maintain county boundaries, it is certainly important that the Committees understand this when establishing Senate, and other, districts.

Thank you for the work that you are doing for our State,
Ed Butler, former State Representative
Hart's Location