



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

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Deaglan McEachern
Mayor

March 12, 2024

Chairperson Renzullo
House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Re: City of Portsmouth's Written Testimony in opposition to HB 1513

Chairperson Renzullo and Members of the House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee:

The City of Portsmouth opposed HB 1513. The bill removes the local appointing authority for members of the Pease Development Authority Board from local officials in Portsmouth and Newington and give this appointing authority to the Governor and Executive Council. This vests total control of the composition of the PDA board in the Executive Branch (Governor and Executive Council) and removes it from the local Legislative Branch (Mayor and City Council from Portsmouth and Selectmen from Newington). This further dilutes Portsmouth and Newington's representation on the Board, which was formerly 1 and one half locally appointed board members each. This bill is a deliberate attempt to quiet the voices of those citizens who are most affected by PDA's actions (Portsmouth and Newington) and replace those voices with political appointees. Having the PDA Board comprised only of political appointees, rather than those appointed by local elected officials, is a blatant attempt to further quiet local citizens' voices and to dilute their influence over what happens where they live.

Portsmouth must have a voice on the Board because the majority of the developed land that comprises the Tradeport is in Portsmouth (excluding the runways and the wildlife refuge which is federal land), and the State's only deep water port, controlled by the PDA, is also located in Portsmouth.

Portsmouth citizens are the most affected by the PDA's decisions, therefore local appointees are critical to represent their interests.

On behalf of the residents of the City of Portsmouth, I would urge the Committee to vote HB 1513 ITL.

Sincerely,



Deaglan McEachern
Mayor of the City of Portsmouth
On behalf of the Portsmouth City Council

cc: Portsmouth City Council
Portsmouth Legislative Delegation