



County of York  
Emergency Management Agency  
Office of the Chief Fire Administrator  
149 Jordan Springs Road  
Alfred, ME 04002



131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature  
Committee on Transportation  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

March 19, 2023

**RE: TESTIMONY REGARDING LD369**

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in regard to LD 369 *An Act to Allow Repurposed Military Vehicles to be Registered and Operated on Maine Roads*.

This bill needs to be modified to contain an exemption or a provision for former military vehicles repurposed for use in a public safety or a public works role.

Many municipalities around Maine use repurposed military vehicles for public safety and public works functions. These vehicles are subject to requirements for annual commercial vehicle inspections, Bureau of Labor Standards requirements, and other standards to ensure safety. These vehicles are inexpensive to acquire and efficient to maintain and operate. They are a good use of surplus. Most of these vehicles repurposed for public safety or public works you are in excess of 10,000 pounds. This bill will remove several functional vehicles from public service.

Military vehicles are most commonly repurposed for use in the firefighting. Most typically for use off-road in wildland forest fires. They are owned by municipalities or volunteer fire associations recognized by municipalities. With the current climate change predictions the role of these vehicles in wildland firefighting takes on a new level of importance. These vehicles easily weigh in excess of 10,000 pounds.

Please consider the role these vehicles play in public service in Maine and the consequences to that service should this bill become law.

Very Respectfully,

Roger S. Hooper  
Chief Fire Administrator, York County