

County of Aroostook

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

RYAN D. PELLETIER



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PAUL J. UNDERWOOD
PRESQUE ISLE

NORMAN L. FOURNIER
WALLAGRASS

WILLIAM T. DOBBINS
HOULTON

IN SUPPORT OF

LD 1889 An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System

STATE OF MAINE LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITY & TECHNOLOGY

Senator Lawrence, Representative Zeigler & Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Ryan Pelletier and I am a resident of St. Agatha and serve as the County Administrator of Aroostook County. I submit this written testimony on behalf of the Board of Aroostook County Commissioners, Paul Underwood of Presque Isle, Norman Fournier of Wallagrass and William Dobbins of Houlton in support of LD 1889, "An Act to Provide Authorization to Aroostook County to Use the Statewide Radio and Network System".

LD 1889 is common sense legislation that allows one unit of government to access and utilize another unit of governments property in the service of the people of the State of Maine.

LD 1889 will provide our County Sheriff's Office the ability to use the statewide radio and network system gaining access to crucial towers that will enhance our radio communication capabilities in one of Maine's most rural and remote counties. It will also provide life safety and public protection for all agencies that our Dispatch Center provides services to. This includes not only our own rural patrol deputies and emergency management personnel but also local police, fire and ambulance service providers and municipalities from Madawaska to Houlton and parts of northern Washington and Penobscot Counties.

Aroostook County is utilizing nearly \$3.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to significantly upgrade our equipment and infrastructure throughout the region to better communicate with our first responders and provide enhanced emergency services to those that we serve and protect. LD 1889 will augment this project and provide meaningful support to us. We would expect to share in the requirements of the Statewide Radio and Network System Fund in the same manner and in accordance with an established rate structure as is with any other state agency as outlined in 5 MRSA Sub-section 1520.

The mission of the Maine Office of Information Technology as stated on their website is it "strives to be a client-centric organization cultivating positive relationships and growth to better serve State of Maine agencies and Maine citizens." We believe LD 1889 is in direct support of that very mission and welcome the opportunity to join other state agencies to deliver that mission statewide.

In closing, we thank you for your consideration of LD 1889 and ask for your support and Ought to Pass recommendation.

Sincerely,

Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator