

Ryan Pelletier
County of Aroostook
LD 2109

January 26, 2024

TO: Honorable Members of the Committee

Yesterday, January 25th, I submitted testimony in favor of LD 2109. However, I have since learned that information contained in my letter has inaccurate information from a Bangor Daily News article and I wish to have this testimony as my official position on LD 2109.

My name is Ryan Pelletier and I am a resident of St. Agatha and serve as the County Administrator of Aroostook County.

I testify in support of LD 2109 with the caveat that the bill summary states "no less than 2020 staffing levels". I think this is a very important distinction as the intent should be to adequately and appropriately fund the Maine State Police to maintain rural patrol services to the level necessary to meet the needs of the particular area where the need exists.

Rural Counties like Aroostook have seen significant increases in crime over the last several years and at the same time we have seen a decline in the number of troopers in Aroostook County. This puts an undue burden on local property taxpayers who are left to pay for increases in their county taxes to fill additional rural patrol sheriff deputy positions.

Response times to 911 calls have increased over the years as well due to these staffing shortages and the concerns of our citizens continue to increase.

In closing I simply ask you to consider this bill and support maintaining adequate funding levels for the Maine State Police, not specific to any particular year, rather to the real time demands that the MSP has in each of their service areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Ryan D. Pelletier
County Administrator
Aroostook County