



# *Dixfield Fire Company*

*PO Box 808, 38 Main Street, Dixfield, ME 04224*

Testimony in Support of "An Act to Increase the Funding to the Live Fire Service Training Facilities Fund" LD 679

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Date: March 3, 2025

To: The distinguished members of the Committee

This bill seeks a one-time allocation of \$1,000,000 for the fiscal year 2026-27 to support construction, repair and replacement of essential training facilities across the State of Maine. These funds will ensure that Maine firefighters have access to safe, modern and maintained live fire training environments.

Firefighters face complex and dangerous work environments every day. Structure fires, technical rescues, HazMat incidents all require extensive and specialized training within a safe, hands-on training environment. New facilities are needed across the state for all firefighters to have easier access to these facilities for training. A majority of firefighters in Maine are volunteers and the ability to train in a safe environment in a nearby facility, without having to travel hours, is essential to maximizing their training time.

Live fire training is essential to experiencing real conditions and critical to meeting the certification standards of the National Fire Protection Association.

Having had the benefit of live-fire training in my initial training many years ago, I understand the need for new recruits to experience this training first-hand. With many facilities exceeding their life expectancy and being deteriorated as a result of extensive fire exposure, it is time to continue the replacement of facilities and/or add in areas not currently serviced with modern training buildings.

This is an opportunity to invest in fire service safety, encourage and grow through recruitment and retention, and ultimately enhance our public safety by training our current and future firefighters. With this training, the public has a better chance of a positive outcome when properly trained individuals come to their rescue.

Thank you for your support of this essential training element necessary to become a properly trained firefighter.

Respectfully submitted,

*Scott R Dennett*

Scott R Dennett  
Fire Chief, CFO ME II