

Margaret Duddy
Wells
LD 1259

Members of the Judiciary Committee

My name is Margaret (Peg) Duddy, I am a full time resident of Wells, ME.

I am writing to ask each of you to vote to support LD1259.

Unfortunately, in the past two months, Joann Putnam the Wells Police Chief signed a 287(g) contract with ICE. Until now, the Wells Police Department has had a good reputation in town and the surrounding area.

However, the signing of this contract is a major source of division in our town. Many of us want the WPD to cancel this contract and continue to focus on supporting and protecting our town. We do not want the WPD to be acting on behalf of ICE.

I have carefully read the 287(g) contract. I see it as a town (in this case Wells) agreeing to use town resources to carry out ICE responsibilities. Already the Wells Police Department is requesting funding for 3 additional police officers in the coming budget. This is in addition to the cost to the town of 40 hours of "training" for each officer as required by this contract. And also in addition to the cost of the hours that the Police Chief is spending trying to defend the contract and the hours required of the Town Manager and Select Board to deal with this situation that has divided our town. The impact of this contract on the tourism of Wells is still not known, but it is expected to be significant.

I am asking each of you to vote to support LD1259 so that other communities in Maine will not have to face a situation similar to the one currently unfolding in Wells.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of my request.