



FARMINGTON FIRE RESCUE

LD 1280, An Act to Invest Maines Fire Training Facilities

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice, and Public Safety. My name is Timothy Hardy, and I am the Fire Chief of the Town of Farmington Fire Department. I write this letter in support of LD 1280.

LD 1280 will Invest in the future of the Maine Fire service by providing a critical tool to the Firefighters who serve our communities. These facilities will help ensure that firefighters will have access to the best possible training available to perform their jobs.

As the Fire Chief in a community that was fortunate enough to receive the funding for a facility in the past grant program, I am here to attest to the benefits these facilities provide. Our department had been working for over 10 years in collaboration with foster regional applied technology center to build a facility. We had been unable to find any opportunities for funding until this grant opportunity was made available. Our facility was completed in October of 2021 and has been a huge asset in our ability to train new firefighters and provide continuing education to other firefighters in this region.

The first regional Firefighter 1 and 2 program that we held at our facility was in January of 2021. This program served 40 firefighters from 13 fire departments from 4 counties. This facility enabled us to deliver the full program without having to worry about finding acquired structures to use or travelling long distances to use other facilities. These facilities provide the ability to deliver realistic training to firefighters and allow us the space to accomplish multiple drills simultaneously. Having this facility has simplified the planning process for both firefighter 1 and 2 programs and department training. This Facility is used regularly used by the area fire departments, the Foster regional applied technology center firefighter 1 and 2 program, and the Franklin County Firefighters Association firefighter 1 and 2 program. The facility has also been used by the area law enforcement agencies, state police bomb squad, and state police K-9 teams for training. This grant has provided a great opportunity for collaboration between area fire departments, the regional school district, the county firefighters association and Maine fire service institute to provide the firefighters of this region a state-of-the-art NFPA compliant facility to train at.

I urge the committee and legislature to support LD1280 so that Firefighters in other parts of the state can have the added benefits this facility has brought to our community and region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy D. Hardy, Fire Chief

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