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Testimony of Rep. Anne Graham presenting
LD 630, An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and the esteemed members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, I am Rep Anne Graham and I serve the communities of North Yarmouth and Gray I am here to present **LD 630, An Act to Ensure Rural Law Enforcement Services in Maine.**

Cumberland County Commissioner and former constituent, Steve Gordon, chatted with me in the produce section of our local Hannaford about the dilemma rural law enforcement are currently facing It is my understanding that the Maine State Police have changed how they cover rural areas to accommodate increased coverage needs elsewhere According to Commissioner Gordon, this has created significant concern for many Sheriffs in our beautiful, rural Maine counties

In April, I was able to bring together individuals who represent the County Sheriffs, the County Commissioners, the Chief of the Maine State Police, the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Speaker of the House and the Senate President to discuss this concern Our hope was to provide data and develop a plan to address this pressing issue that is rendering our back roads, woods and fields less safe as law enforcement officers are called to cover other parts of the state

Alas, this task takes a lot of time and energy to compile and plan I have made a request for this bill to be carried over to the next session and the Presiding Officers have graciously agreed I want to thank Speaker Talbot-Ross for allowing this bill to be carried over

Thank you for your indulgence Thank you for your very hard work!