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THE MAINE SENATE
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Testimony in Support of LD 1886
“Resolve to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of
Forestry in Fort Kent”

Presented to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry
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Good morning Senator Ingwersen, Representative Pluecker, and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry My name is Troy Jackson and I have the honor of serving as Senate President representing the good people of Aroostook County in the Maine Legislature I’m here today to introduce LD 1886 “Resolve to Construct a New District Headquarters Building for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent ”

Folks living in rural Maine, especially in northern Aroostook County, have long struggled to interact with their government and get the services they need This is in part due to the distance between the state capital and the heart of my district Even though technology has made it easier to connect, there is simply no replacement for a nearby, physical location where folks can drop in and quickly get the answers or support they need For many loggers and haulers, the lack of reliable, high-speed internet and cell phone services greatly limits the ability of technology to bridge the gap between the woods and the Bureau of Forestry

Establishing a new district headquarters for the Bureau of Forestry in Fort Kent will better serve the state, and the folks living and working in the region

I know that the Department is currently in the process of developing plans for construction I am hopeful that this bill will be used as a vehicle to support that effort by providing funding This construction is overdue, and we cannot wait for the next Legislature to make this building a reality

Thank you for your time this morning I would be happy to take any questions