



# **Maine Fire Chiefs'** ASSOCIATION

Local Government Center 60 Community Drive Augusta, Maine 04330-9486

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus, and Distinguished Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee,

I am Chief Bill Gillespie from Liberty, Maine, and the Legislative Liaison for the Maine Fire Chiefs Association, representing more than 400 Fire Chiefs throughout the state. I am submitting this letter in support of LD 28 **Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy.**

Chief Bickford had been an active member of the Maine Fire Chiefs Association for more than 20 years. He held the position of County Vice President for Somerset County until joining The Executive Board in 2012, along with the office of President from 2017 to 2019. During his time with the Maine Fire Chiefs, Chief Bickford held many roles, including on the Maine Length of Service Board.

During Chief Bickford's term as President, we were able to secure the original funding for training facilities in the state with the following bill.

**LD 1845 (HP 1282)**

**"An Act To Provide Incentives To Attract Trained Firefighters to Maine and To Retain Trained Firefighters by Expanding the Provision of Live Fire Service Training"**

This bill paved the way for the building of this training facility and bringing it to Fairfield was largely due to Chief Bickford and his commitment to bring Live Fire Training to central Maine. We agree with Senator Cyrway in immortalizing Chief Bickford's Legacy with this Honor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Bill Gillespie

Legislative Liaison Maine Fire Chiefs Association