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Washington County Sheriff's Office

Barry Curtis
Sheriff

Michael Crabtree
Chief Deputy

Richard Rolfe
Jail Administrator

Paula Johnson-Rolfe
Office Manager



83 Court Street
Machias, Maine 04654
Telephone: (207) 255-4422
Fax: (207) 255-3641

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF LD 461
"AN ACT TO FUND RURAL PATROL SERVICES IN WASHINGTON COUNTY"**

February 24, 2025

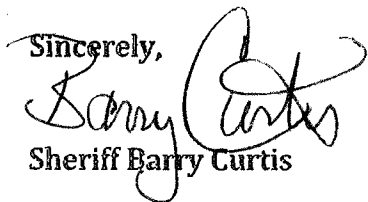
Senator Anne Beebe-Center
Representative Tavis Hasenfus
Distinguished members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

I am Barry Curtis, Sheriff of Washington County. Today, I present this testimony supporting LD 461, An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County.

Since the Maine State Police patrol services were diminished almost completely in our County, this has put unusual pressure on my agency and negatively impacted public safety for our citizens. Consequently, after consulting with the State Police and Senator Moore, I am asking this Committee to unanimously support the additional funding of four Maine State Troopers stationed in and performing regular patrols in Washington County.

The passage of this bill will augment my county's law enforcement efforts and improve public safety for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Barry Curtis