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Sen. Beebe-Center, Rep. Hasenfus, Members of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee.

My name is Paul Davis. In addition to being a retired legislator I am also a retired state trooper, I am here today to support LD 477. An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by providing state police patrol and policing services.

In the year 1977 I was assigned to rural patrol in Piscataquis County. At that time the state police had 3 troopers assigned to rural patrol. At that time the state police worked a 24 hour on call 6 day work week. At the end of 6 weeks we got a four day weekend. The Piscataquis Sheriff's Department also had 4 patrol deputies.

Over the years the Maine State Police has been given added responsibilities such as child abuse investigations and drug enforcement. Today, there are no troopers patrolling Piscataquis County.

My understanding of LD477 would provide for the state police to patrol Piscataquis County.

I have spoken with the sheriff of Piscataquis County and he told me he would be happy to see the state police patrol in Piscataquis.

Thank You and I would be happy to answer and questions.