



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Tiffany Strout**

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Thursday, February 27, 2025

Public Testimony of LD 345 – **"A Resolve to Rename a Bridge in The Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge"**

Presented by Representative Strout of Harrington – District 11

Good morning, Senator Nangle, Representative Crafts and distinguished members of the Transportation. I am Representative Tiffany Strout from Harrington, representing the towns of Milbridge, Harrington, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Centerville, Addison, Jonesport, Beals, Jonesboro, Roque Bluffs, Whitneyville and Machias and I am here today to present and support LD 345 - **A Resolve to Rename a Bridge in The Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge"**

Today, I am here on behalf of my constituents of the beautiful town of Roque Bluffs. After my first term had already begun Lynn Sullivan, a resident of Roque Bluffs reached out to me regarding the bridge across Johnson's Cove. She wanted to see if there was a possibility of renaming the bridge to recognize the contributions of Hope Pratt to the community.

I explained she would need to check with the town to have support and consensus and if this happened, I would definitely put the bill forward, and here I am today.

In my testimony, I have included a letter from the Selectmen of the town of Roque Bluffs and I believe Philip Pinto, a selectman for the town will be testifying so I will let him speak about Hope and her contributions as they knew her best.

I would like to offer something that maybe unique to the naming of this bridge as Hope is from, as they say, "Away". I think it speaks volumes to her spirit and love for the area if she is recognized in such a way in this small community. The bigger attribute to naming the bridge in Hope's memory is that it highlights that it does not matter where you moved from, but rather how much you love and support the community where you are.

Thank you for your time today and I would be glad to answer any questions you have about the request or the Roque Bluffs area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tiffany Strout".

Tiffany Strout  
State Representative

# Town of Roque Bluffs

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February 20, 2025

Tiffany Strout  
Maine State Representative  
12 Anderson Lane  
Harrington, ME 04643

Dear Ms. Strout,

The town of Roque Bluffs in Maine strongly supports LD 345 "Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge".

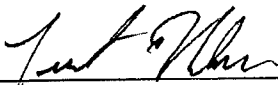
Hope Pratt was born in 1943 and married Joel Pratt in 1962. They lived in Pennsylvania before retiring to Roque Bluffs in 1994. Hope was a master gardener, and a meticulous knitter. Gentle and caring, she worked as a hospice social worker in Pennsylvania and volunteered in the same capacity in Maine, where her special gifts helped many people with end-of-life care.

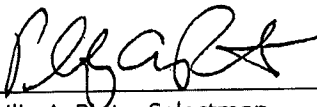
Hope and Joel were key contributing members of the Roque Bluffs Community Center, serving on the board for several years, and raising much needed funds for building improvements. They were long-time participants in town affairs. They were also heavily involved with the Wee Care Baby Center in Machias.

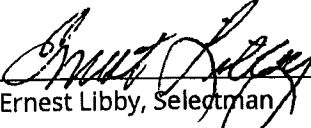
Hope was instrumental in raising the height of the new Johnson Cove bridge during its design phase when she snapped a photograph during a particularly vicious storm showing waves splashing salt water over, and throwing rocks onto, the bridge. The proof convinced a reluctant MDOT to redesign the bridge three feet higher, as it stands today.

The memory of Hope Pratt lives on in the community. Dedication of a bridge in her honor is but a small token of the appreciation of all who love the community of Roque Bluffs.

Signed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025:

  
Tristen Nelson, Selectman

  
Philip A. Pinto, Selectman

  
Ernest Libby, Selectman