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April 28, 2025

Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify for LD-1600 a bill to support the municipal police department's special response teams with regional funding. My name is Nat Shed, I am a member of Brunswick Town Council, and I am the Chair of the town's Finance Committee.

I would like to give you some historical background on some of the reasons this bill is now before this committee. On October 25, 2023, the Brunswick Police Department Tactical Team with its ageing tactical response vehicle along with other police officers from our department responded to the Lewiston shooting. This tactical vehicle broke down during this emergency operation and needed to be towed back to Brunswick. Because of its age and the lack of parts to fix this tactical response truck, our Police Chief Scott Stewart determined that the Town of Brunswick needed a new tactical vehicle. Our Police Chief and our Town Manager recommended that the Town of Brunswick purchase a new BearCat tactical response vehicle costing \$380,000.

The process of getting support from the Town Council and from the citizens of Brunswick for this capital purchase was very difficult. Concerns about the cost to the Town of Brunswick, the roll of police officers in a small town and the lack regional cost sharing were the main obstacles to this expensive purchase.

Because of mutual aid agreements with area towns, the historical use of this now retired tactical vehicle was split evenly between in town use and out of town emergency calls. With this history, both citizens and Council Members insisted that we work for a regional approach to funding the cost of our tactical response team and the cost of a new tactical vehicle, that is needed to react to public safety issues in our area.

The Brunswick Town Council reach out to Representative Daniel Ankeles to sponsor LD-1600. We are aware that our interest in a regional funding for emergency response teams is a statewide issue that goes beyond the safety concerns of the police departments in Cumberland, Sagadahoc and Androscoggin counties.

Please support this regional cost sharing approach to public safety emergencies.

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