



Maine Fire Protection Services Commission
52 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0052

CHIEF DANIEL S BROOKS, CHAIR

Good morning Senators Rotundo and Anne Beebe-Center, Representatives Drew Gattine and Tavis Hasenfus, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committees on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

My name is Chief Dan Brooks and on behalf of the Maine Fire Services Protection Commission, I offer this testimony in favor of Sec. UU-1 within the Governor's 2026-27 Supplemental General Fund Budget.

The \$1.5 million appropriated in Public Law 2023, Chapter 459 was designated for funding Live-Fire training facilities throughout the State of Maine. These are important facilities that are essential investments for the men and women who protect Maine's communities.

Since this law went into effect, we have been working diligently with the Maine Fire Service Institute to complete several projects that replace facilities in Auburn and Bangor as well as make repairs in Yarmouth and Farmington. This funding is set to expire on June 30, 2026, however, due to an extended permit process and contractor work schedules, circumstances beyond our control have extended the timeline for completion beyond this date. We have executed formal agreements for these funds and initiated payments for these projects including:

- A new fire training facility in the Auburn – 50% paid to date
- A new fire training facility in the Bangor – 50% paid to date
- Facility repairs in Yarmouth – 0% paid
- Safety upgrades in Farmington 0% paid

In short, the \$1.5 million dollars has already been appropriated, contracts and obligations have already been issued for the projects, and the Commission now finds itself in a bind to complete the work and subsequent payments to our sister communities without an extension of this funding.

This provision does not request new funding. It simply preserves the Legislature's prior investment and allows it to be used for its intended purpose, improving fire service training facilities that serve both career and volunteer departments statewide.

I respectfully ask this Committee to support Sec. UU-1 and allow these funds to be carried forward so we can complete the work already authorized and deliver on the promise made to Maine's fire service.

Thank you for your time and your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Daniel Brooks

Chair, Maine Fire Protection Services Commission