



**Michael Ray**

40 Quarry Road

Lincolntonville, ME 04849

Phone: (207) 930-0371

[michael.ray@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:michael.ray@legislature.maine.gov)

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Good afternoon Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Hasenfus and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. I'm Michael Ray, and I represent the towns of Appleton, Islesboro, Liberty, Lincolntonville, Montville, Morrill and Searsmont in House District 40. I'm here to express strong support for LD 2232: An Act to Increase County Jail Funding..

Property tax payers in Waldo County, and across the State, have - as you know - been taking a big hit in recent years. It's painful and extremely burdensome to many as everyday prices keep rising. With this bill, the Legislature can help ensure that the cost of maintaining Maine's correctional infrastructure is shared more broadly across the state's tax base, rather than concentrated on the property taxpayers of individual counties.

So LD 2232 is as much about tax fairness as it is about addressing the rising costs of maintaining a safe and sustainable correctional system in the State. An increase in State funding, shared by all taxpayers in the state, will keep pace with inflationary and mandated concerns that our counties face, as well as continue the equitable model of State-Local Government partnerships.

Thank you for your time today, and I will be happy to try and answer any questions.