



Christopher J. Lavoie  
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**IN SUPPORT OF LD 268**

***An Act To Eliminate Online Burn Permit Fees for All Areas of the State***

**March 9, 2021**

Senator Dill, Representative O'Neil, and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, my name is Christopher Lavoie, I am the Interim Fire Chief with the Glenburn Fire Department. I am writing this letter in support of LD 268.

The Glenburn Fire Department works closely with our partners at the Maine Forest Service. We work together to keep our municipality safe from wildland fires and minimize damage when there are emergencies.

We use the online burn permit system almost exclusively. We have used this more frequently since the start of the pandemic to limit contact with the public when it is not necessary. We have found through trial, that this program allows for seamless communication with our fire department command staff as well as our Regional Ranger. This seamless communication is paramount to the success of safe burning in our community.

Today's society is very technology driven and enjoys not having to drive to their local fire department when they are cleaning up their property. It saves time and is very user friendly. The cost of a permit should not be a negative factor in such a popular program. Our goal is to prevent wildland fires and to ensure safe burning for all residents of our community and across the State of Maine.

Our agency asks for your support on this bill. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

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***Our Mission***

Through professional and dedicated members, the Glenburn Fire Department protects lives and property of our community through incident response, comprehensive training, and fire prevention.