Good Morning Senator Deschambault and Representative Warren

Also good morning to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. My name is Gerry Gay, am currently serving as a career officer [lieutenant] with the Sanford Fire Department for over 38 years. Since 2004, I've proudly served on the Maine Fire Service Protection Commission and since 2000 as an Advisory Board member to Maine Fire Training Institute. I represent the Professional Firefighters of Maine with over 1000 members all across the Great State of Maine.

Over the years Maine's Professional Firefighters, Call and Volunteer firefighters have been working toward how to enhance Fire Training all across the State of Maine as our access to abandoned structures became extremely limited and some of our current training sites became unsafe and no longer meeting NFPA 1403 Standard to use these training sites. Under LD 242, we began building State of the Art Training Facility with 2 currently up and running, Farmington and Yarmouth and hoping to break ground in Fairfield this spring. But our mission is not over for we need to continue building these site as our older sites will become limited and no longer be allowed to be used for they will become unsafe to training firefighters. The need for your support for LD 242 which will remove the sunset provision, will allow the Maine Fire Service Protection Commission and Maine Fire Training Institute to complete one of our mission in providing better and advance live fire training to current and future Maine Firefighters. Thank you for your time and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

58 Chick Road Sanford, Maine 04073 207-651-5944 Gerry Gay City of Sanford

## February 22, 2021

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