

Thomas Higgins  
Bangor

February 19, 2021

RE: LD 242

The Bangor Fire Department training facility was constructed in 1988 with volunteer labor and materials. For over 30 years the burn facility has served many fire departments in Penobscot County as well as other regions. Additionally, Maine Fire Service Institute, has used the facility to certify hundreds of firefighters from across the State of Maine. Although ideally located on the I-95 corridor, and readily accessible to many in the Maine fire service, the building has limited capabilities, does not meet current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, and lacks safety features. In addition, due to its age and heavy use, the building is starting to deteriorate, resulting in a three year period (2014 to late 2016) that the building was placed out of service due to structural stability concerns. Although temporary repairs have been made to ensure the building is operational again, it still lacks current safety features, and the upkeep is becoming cost prohibitive. The Maine Fire Service is in need of new training facilities to meet fire training standards of today and tomorrow. Please support LD 242.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Higgins, Fire Chief  
Bangor Fire Department