

LENGTH OF SERVICE AWARD PROGRAM LD 1803

January 19, 2022

HONORABLE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS,

GOOD MORNING, I AM WILLIAM HUSSEY, 34 YEARS AS PERU'S FIRE CHIEF. I AM IN SUPPORT OF LD 1803. PERU IS A SMALL TOWN OF 1550 RESIDENTS AND 46 SQUARE MILES WITH TWO MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES TRAVERSING THE TOWN. REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE HAS INCREASED BY 30% LAST YEAR AND APPEARS TO BE TRENDING THE SAME FOR 2022. WE RECENTLY HAD 3 TOWNS CALLED FOR A CHIMNEY FIRE, AS ONE TOWN DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH FIREFIGHTERS.

PERU HAS 20 FIREFIGHTERS, 8 ARE AT LEAST 60 YEARS OLD, 2 STUDENT FIREFIGHTERS, (under 18), AND THE REST ARE A MIXTURE OF AGES.

I AM A TRUSTEE OF THE LENGTH OF AWARD PROGRAM BOARD, REPRESENTING MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF FIREFIGHTERS.

THE LOSAP PROGRAM IS A POSITIVE INCENTIVE TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN FIREFIGHTERS. MANY HOURS OF TRAINING, FIRE CALLS, MEETINGS AND MAINTAINING THE EXPENSIVE EQUIPMENT ARE REQUIRED TO EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO EMERGENCIES. OUR MOST RECENT VOLUNTEER IS RETIRED.

WE NEED TO ENTICE YOUNGER FOLKS TO BE PART OF OUR TEAM. THIS PROGRAM WILL BE THE KEY TO MAINTAINING TRAINED FIREFIGHTERS TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF MAINE

I ASK THAT YOU SUPPORT LD 1803.

THANK YOU.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William Hussey".

WILLAM HUSSEY, FIRE CHIEF 207-562-7079

47 LAPOINTE RD

PERU, MAINE