



County of York  
Emergency Management Agency  
**Office of the Chief Fire Administrator**  
149 Jordan Springs Road  
Alfred, ME 04002



131<sup>st</sup> Maine Legislature  
Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
100 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

March 17, 2023

**RE: TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO LD207**

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing in opposition to LD 207 *An Act to Transfer Responsibility for Administering the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code from the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation.*

The relationship between building codes and the fire service has a long history. Our best way to reduce fire loss in Maine is to strengthen this relationship. Often, the fire service is not included in the process of writing building codes. This places the fire service in a “reactionary” position to code writing and implementation. The fire service needs to be in a “proactive” position in this regard. Having the Fire Marshal’s Office administer MUBEC ensures a strong line of communication with the fire service.

Of the 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, number 15 discusses code enforcement directly. It advocates for greater fire service involvement in building, fire and life safety codes in order to better protect the public and keep firefighters out of harm’s way.

Steady progress has been made in this area. Removing this responsibility from the State Fire Marshal will only be a step backwards.

Very Respectfully,

Roger S. Hooper  
Chief Fire Administrator, York County