



*Town of Yarmouth,
Maine*

Incorporated 1849
YARMOUTH FIRE RESCUE
178 NORTH ROAD (PO BOX 964)
YARMOUTH, MAINE 04096



MICHAEL ROBITAILLE, CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

BILL GODDARD, DEPUTY CHIEF

LD 1280 An Act to Invest in Maines Fire Service Training Facilities

Senator Beebe-Center, Representative Salisbury and distinguished members of the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. My name is Michael Robitaille, and I am the Fire Chief for the Town of Yarmouth. I have served in the Fire Service since 1983 as both volunteer and career firefighter and Paramedic. I am also a Fire Instructor Level II and have worked as a State Fire Instructor for the Maine Fire Service Institute since June 1995.

I write this letter in support of LD 1280 as this is a small investment in Maine fire service. Unlike our partners in law enforcement the fire service does not have constant funding for a state training facility. Maine is a state where a volunteer firefighter may have to travel for hours for a four-hour training. This travel is at their own expense, and they are now taken away from the community they protect.

The funding for these facilities will be used to build certified and engineered facilities to accomplish the mandated training required to be a firefighter. In July of 2019 the Town of Yarmouth was awarded one of the first facilities to be funded by the State of Maine. In 2022 departments in the region have completed 20,590 hours of firefighting training. This training included two Portland Fire recruit schools, two Southern Maine Community College programs, a regional Firefighter 2 program and many local department trainings. There were 376 live fire evolutions conducted in our facility. I am pleased to report that not a single injury occurred to any person during these evolutions. Also, during this same time period we were able to host a Nationally approved Live Fire Ignitor program at the facility.

When Yarmouth was awarded this grant funding for the construction of the facility it was obvious that there was not enough funding to build the facility we needed. The Town of Yarmouth supplemented this funding by nearly \$100,000 as the council and community realized the benefits for our staff. I understand that there is only so much funding to go around and would encourage you to consider increasing the funding in the future. The amount requested is the same as in previous years and the cost of building and the cost of materials has steadily increased since the first round of awards.

I strongly urge your support in passing LD 1280 to fund the fire service training facilities Thank you

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael S. Robitaille, CFO III
Yarmouth Fire Rescue