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Senate Chair, Baldacci  
House Chair, Matlack and distinguished members of the State and Local Government Committee,  
Good Morning!

I am Representative Chris Johansen, representing House District 145, the 18 organized towns between Bridgewater and Sherman in Southern Aroostook County.

I can see you are all ready to jump in and pull the best parts of all 14 of these bills before you today and come up with a bill that would come out of this committee with a unanimous, positive recommendation and send it to the Chief Executive for her enthusiastic endorsement... so I will be brief.

Across this State there are huge differences in demographics. What's good for Androscoggin is not always good for Aroostook. And who better than the local County Commissioners and Emergency Management to know what's going on in their County? Let them be the lead in declaring an emergency or not.

My bill, LD 608, is before you with a summary that speaks to the highlights of this obviously superior bill and so, without further ado, I will let you go to work, with a big Thank You for your time and effort.