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Press Release



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Governor Hassan Meets with Coos County Police Chiefs, Urges Passage of Bill Enacting Protections for Border Patrol Agents

GROVETON – As part of her efforts to support New Hampshire's dedicated and brave law enforcement officers, Governor Maggie Hassan met in Groveton today with the Coos County Police Chiefs, where they discussed the importance of passing Senate Bill 382, which enacts protections for federal border patrol agents who support local and state law enforcement in the North Country. Yesterday, the New Hampshire State Senate tabled the important public safety measure.

"In the North Country, local and state law enforcement officers face unique challenges, including the geographic expanse of the region and interaction with our Canadian border," Governor Hassan said. "In spite of those unique challenges, our public safety officers in the North Country work tirelessly to keep our communities safe, sometimes receiving critical assistance from federal border patrol agents."

"These agents lack legal protections when responding to incidents outside of federal jurisdiction, and this important public safety measure would create those protections so that border patrol agents can continue providing critical assistance to the North Country law enforcement community," Governor Hassan said. "Our dedicated and brave law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day to protect their fellow citizens and maintain New Hampshire's status as one of the safest states in the nation, and I urge the Senate to find a bipartisan way forward to enact these protections in order to assist law enforcement officers in the North Country."

"The men and women of the border patrol provide a vital service in their own right, but their ability to assist our North Country law enforcement officers is critical to ensuring our community's safety," said State Senator Jeff Woodburn. "And in situations of life and death in the North Country, when local or state law enforcement may be an hour away, it is the border patrol that selflessly comes to our aid. We can't continue to ask these men and women to put their lives at risk without providing them the legal protections they need."

The measure is modeled after a similar law in Vermont. Governor Hassan has made strengthening public safety in the North Country and across the state a priority, including signing a bipartisan budget in 2013 that put more state troopers on the road and brought Troop F in the North Country to its highest levels since before 2009 and working to open the Raymond S. Burton North Country Fire and EMS Training Facility in Bethlehem.

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Governor Hassan and Senator Woodburn meet with the Coos County Police Chiefs in Groveton.

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