

June 2, 2021

Senator Breen, Representative Pierce, and Members of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs,

We write to express our strong support for Governor Mills' Change Package to LD 221. We believe specific initiatives, identified below, will help protect Maine's environment, address climate change, enhance well-sited clean energy development, improve land use permitting, respond to sites contaminated by per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), and assist with policy development and analysis regarding climate, clean energy, and natural resources management. Specifically, we urge your support the following items in the Change Package:

Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

- Provides funding to continue perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) testing in foods for which state action levels have been established. **p. 14**
- Establishes one limited-period Agricultural Compliance Officer position and provides funding for related All Other costs in the Office of the Commissioner program to work directly with impacted farmers on PFAS mitigation efforts. This position ends on June 10, 2023. **p.15**
- Provides funding to abate, clean up and mitigate threats or hazards posed by perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) contamination and to provide support to impacted farms, to support critical PFAS research, and to otherwise allow for the Department to strategically and effectively respond to PFAS concerns and issues as they arise for PFAS clean up under Dept. of AG 393 **p. 16**
- Continues one limited-period Public Service Coordinator I position established in Financial Order 00644 FO funded 100% Other Special Revenue Funds to work with the Bureau of Agriculture and the Maine Climate Council's Natural and Working Lands Group. This position ends on June 10, 2023. **p.25**
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- Provides funding and one Planning and Research Associate II position funded to manage grants and monitor Land and Water Conservation Fund sites for compliance. **p. 27.**

Department of Environmental Protection

- One Environmental Specialist IV position to manage climate plan rulemaking on hydrofluorocarbons, appliance standards, and sea-level rise. **p.55**
- One-time funding to support the state forest carbon mapping project. **p.56** □ One Senior Environmental Engineer, one Environmental Engineer position, one Assistant Environmental Engineer, and three Environmental Specialist positions to support land use licensing. **p.57**
- Seventeen positions (including technicians, planning, engineers, environmental specialists, a GIS coordinator, hydrologist, chemist, and public service coordinator) to bring urgent technical attention to the challenge of PFAS contamination. **p.57.**
- Funding for a competitive grant program that matches local funding to upgrade municipal culverts at stream crossings to improve road safety and fish habitat and create local jobs (the Municipal Stream Crossing Upgrade Grant Program). **p.57**

- One-time funding to support treatment of drinking water, and testing and management of contaminated wastes caused by PFAS. **p.58**

Governor's Energy Office

- Two Public Service Coordinator II positions for legal counsel and other support for legal and grid modernization proceedings. **p.61**
- Two Public Service Coordinator II positions and funding in support of a Research Consortium. **p.61**
- One limited-period Public Service Coordinator II position to provide power sector transformation studies, as called for by the Maine Climate Action Plan. **p.61**

Office of the Governor

- Two Governor's Special Assistant positions to support policy analysis and development. **p.60**

Office of Policy Innovation and the Future

- Funding for green communities' emissions reduction planning, technical assistance, and grants for community climate projects. **p.62**
- Two Public Service Coordinator II positions and one Public Service Coordinator III position to provide support for partnerships with Maine's cities and towns for resiliency planning. **p.62**
- Funding for Municipal Resilience Planning and Implementation Grants. **p.62.**

Department of Marine Resources

- Transfer of 16 positions from the Marine Science program to the Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat program. **p. 162.**
- Establishes one Public Service Coordinator II position 50% Bureau of Marine Science program and 50% Bureau of Policy and Management program within the same fund to support Maine's efforts in mitigating the decline in the population of North Atlantic right whales and support offshore wind development. **pp.166 & 171.**
- Establishes one Marine Resource Scientist II position and one Marine Resource Scientist IV position to support the offshore wind development. **p. 171.**
- Ongoing funding for support and technical assistance related to Offshore Wind activities. **p. 171.**

We greatly appreciate your support for these budget items.

Sincerely,

Acadia Center
Appalachian Mountain Club Atlantic Salmon
Federation Coastal Enterprises, Inc.
Conservation Law Foundation Defend Our Health
Environment Maine
GrowSmart Maine
Maine Association of Conservation Commissions
Maine Conservation Voters

Maine Rivers
Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy
Network Natural Resources Council of Maine
Physicians for Social Responsibility Maine Chapter
Sierra Club
The Nature Conservancy, Maine Office
350 Maine