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PAUL R. LEPAGE GOVERNOR H. SAWIN MILLETT, JR. COMMISSIONER M.F. CHIP GAVIN DIRECTOR

To: The Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
From: Chip Gavin, Director, Bureau of General Services
RE: Recycled Products Report
Date: January 27, 2011

The Bureau of General Services, pursuant to Title 5, Section 1812-A, is responsible for a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and that report is attached below for your convenience.

Recycled Paper Products

In FY 2010, approximately 93% of the paper and paper products purchased by the Bureau of General Services/Central Warehouse for use by the State of Maine had at least 30% post consumer content. This year, the printer and copier paper distributed by the Bureau of General Services central warehouse decreased by approximately 6.0 percent compared with FY09. Additionally approximately 80% of the print jobs procured for the State of Maine by DAFS Division of Purchases had at least 30% post consumer content. As in the previous year, this far exceeds the statutory requirement that 50% of paper purchased by the State be recycled content paper.

Environmentally Preferable Procurement Policy

The State of Maine has established a broad range of product procurement practices oriented toward the preservation of natural resources, the promotion of environmental sustainability and the protection of the health and safety of employees and citizens. As part of this policy several factors are considered as part of a best value determination when evaluating purchases, including fuel efficiency, recycled content percentages, materials content, emissions, waste generation, toxicity, and recyclability. The Division of Purchases' bid specifications require environmentally preferable certifications which pertain to certain commodities: EnergyStar for appliances, GreenSeal or EcoLogo for cleaning products, EPEAT Silver or Gold for computer equipment, for example. The Division of Purchases developed specifications for the purchase of paper products that are procured from a source that is certified by a credible third-party system such as the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), Master Logger Program or other systems that evolve over time to be accepted in the forest products marketplace.