

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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April 3, 1935

Henry G. Hunt, Esquire
General Counsel
Public Works Administration
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

At a recent meeting of Governor Louis J. Brann with members of the legislature for conference relative to the nine P. W. A. "Enabling Acts" received by the Governor from Secretary of Interior Ickes, a careful consideration of the various Acts was made as to the necessity or advisability of their enactment by our legislature in order to enable our municipalities to secure loans from certain Federal Agencies; the provisions of said Acts were compared with our present statutes, and it appeared to be the unanimous opinion of the Conference that the proposed enactment was unnecessary owing to the fact that our municipalities have the right to make contracts, raise money, issue notes and bonds, and incur indebtedness up to their constitutional limits; they may exercise the power of eminent domain, hold and dispose of real and personal property, and may purchase water, gas and electric energy.

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In case a municipality has reached its debt limit it may, by special legislative Act, establish a water, sewerage or school district within its borders which district may issue its notes and bonds, receive and disburse moneys, make contracts, and do all things necessary for the proper management of its affairs.

It appeared at said conference that the housing problem had already been solved by special enactment which was signed by the Governor some time ago.

It further appeared that it was unnecessary and inadvisable at the present time to attempt to enact any additional electrical legislation.

Very truly yours,

Deputy Attorney General

SLF H