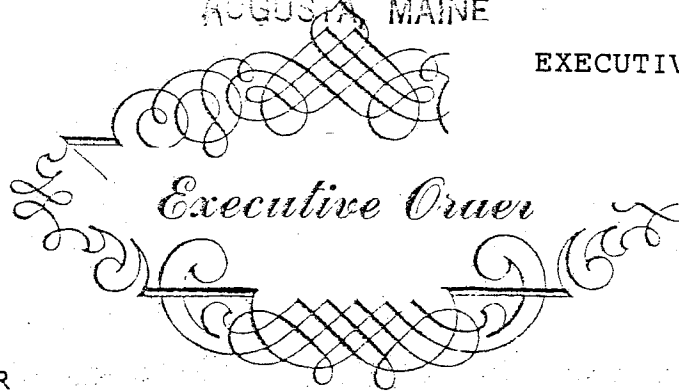


MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 5FY 32/83
DATE December 21, 1982

MAINE'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, small Maine communities have accounted for 70% of the State's population growth over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, these same small towns have also experienced new demands on public facilities and services and frequently lack the tax base necessary to provide these facilities and services; and

WHEREAS, employment and income growth have not kept pace with development causing further disparities between service needs and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, much of the State's substandard housing, poverty level families and low income elderly reside in rural Maine and such families need better job training, public transportation, medical and human services; and

WHEREAS, the agricultural, forest and fishing sectors of the economy are essential to the economic base of many small towns and need assistance if they are to maintain their vitality; and

WHEREAS, energy and natural resource development are also critical to rural development in areas such as agriculture, housing and economic improvement; and

WHEREAS, small businesses help form the backbone of the State's rural economy and need to be promoted and assisted; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal programs and actions having a significant impact on rural development should be guided by clear policies and priorities in order to assist local development efforts and to address identified rural issues in a coordinated and concerted manner; and

WHEREAS, the following State agencies have the capacity to conduct programs and activities relating to rural development: Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, State Planning Office, State Development Office, Department of Conservation, Department of Transportation, Department of Marine Resources, Office of Energy Resources, Division of Community Services, State Housing Authority, State Guarantee Authority, Department of Environmental Protection,

Department of Human Services, Department of Education and Cultural Services, Department of Labor - SETC/CETA, and the Department of Business Regulation;

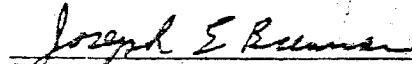
NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby order the State agencies listed above to consider the following goals for rural development in the planning and operation of their programs:

- (a) Stimulate new jobs and higher income in rural areas, especially in those small towns which have large concentrations of unemployed, underemployed, and low income families;
- (b) Promote the stabilization, preservation, and expansion of the State's farming, fishing, and wood products industry;
- (c) Provide adequate and affordable housing to rural residents of all incomes, particularly the low income, and assist in improving the quality of the existing housing stock;
- (d) Provide greater access to essential public facilities and services for rural residents;
- (e) Promote participation of other Federal agencies, the University of Maine at Orono Cooperative Extension Service and the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station, local governments, and regional organizations in the State rural development process and assure that rural development is balanced with the needs of urban communities;
- (f) Eliminate and prevent future duplication, competition, and conflicting actions among and between agencies and all levels of government to promote efficiency in rural development program delivery.

FURTHER, the program priorities in support of these goals attached hereto and incorporated herein are hereby adopted as policies of this Administration. They shall be reviewed at least annually. Recommendations for revision and modification shall be coordinated by the Maine State Planning Office. The annual review, to be submitted by November 15 of each year, shall include the views of local, regional, state, university, and federal officials.

AND, FURTHER, all agencies, offices, and departments of State government are directed to participate in the activities of the Rural Development Committee as needed and to work in close coordination with the following federal agencies:

The U.S. Forest Service, Farmers' Home Administration, Soil Conservation Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Small Business Administration, and the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Service and Agricultural Experiment Station, and with local and regional participants to carry out programs in support of the rural development goals and priorities set forth herein.



JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor