

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF  
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 7 FY 96/97  
DATE May 22, 1997

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MAINE  
ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, Maine's quality of life and economic well-being are determined in large measure by the quality of its environment and natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, finite public and private financial resources must be used efficiently to achieve the goals of environmental protection and natural resources management, and priorities and policies must be routinely set and evaluated to determine the most effective investment of these finite resources; and

**WHEREAS**, such priorities and policies must be based on credible scientific data, and grounded in collaborative efforts among diverse public and private interests; and

**WHEREAS**, that collaboration can best be achieved by establishing a formal public/private entity that encourages discussion, study, public involvement, and resolution of environmental matters of concern to all citizens within the State of Maine; and

**WHEREAS**, the Maine Environmental Priorities Project Steering Committee has proven itself to be a valuable forum for encouraging these activities and has laid the groundwork for productive comparative risk based discussions of Maine's environmental priorities,

**NOW, THEREFORE, I**, Angus S. King, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish The Maine Environmental Priorities Council.

## **1. Purpose and Charge**

The Maine Environmental Priorities Council shall be a forum for representatives of diverse public and private interests to work collaboratively to evaluate current and emerging issues and trends regarding environmental and natural resource conditions and management. The Council shall apply the principles of comparative risk to evaluate the extent of risk to Maine's ecological health, human health, and quality of life presented by these issues and trends, and recommend environmental priorities based on this evaluation. The Council will also identify new risk management strategies and suggest actions that will help both the public and private sectors address these environmental priorities.

## **2. Functions and Duties**

The Maine Environmental Priorities Council shall:

- a) Review available scientific and technical data, and consider public input to identify and evaluate current and emerging environmental and natural resource issues and trends according to the relative risk they pose. The Council will convene issue specific task forces to evaluate and recommend strategies to manage those risks.
- b) Submit a State of the Environment Report to the Governor no later than October, 1998. This report shall highlight the status of Maine's environment and measure progress toward environmental enhancement and risk reduction goals and benchmarks. Issued periodically thereafter, the report will serve as a means of measuring the performance and effectiveness of environmental strategies, policies and programs, and informing the public.
- c) Submit a revised comprehensive comparative environmental risk report to the Governor no later than June, 2000. This report shall review and update the January, 1996, *Consensus Ranking of Environmental Risks Facing Maine* in the light of available scientific and technical data and public input.
- d) Submit annual reports of its comparative risk activities, findings, and recommendations to the Governor. These reports may include the Council's evaluation of long term environmental trends, risks, priorities, and policy developments with respect to their consistency with the Council's comparative environmental risk ranking. These reports also shall contain an evaluation of Council goal achievement. The Council will issue its final report no later than five years from the date of this Order.

### **3. Membership**

The Council shall consist of up to forty members, representing a balanced membership of business interests, environmental interests, natural resource agencies, and other individuals and organizations prepared and willing to participate in a collaborative approach to carrying out the Council's responsibilities in the public interest. Members shall be appointed by the Governor for staggered, renewable, three-year terms, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor. The members of the Council shall serve without compensation.

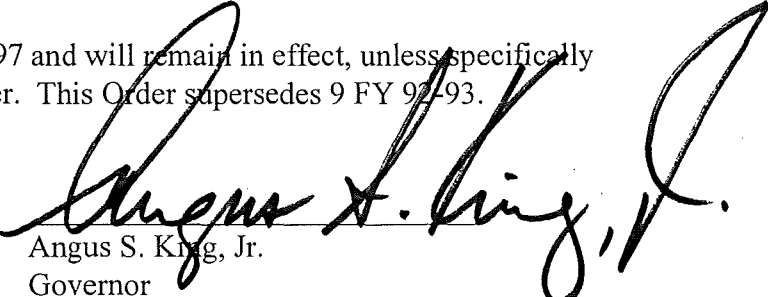
### **4. Resources and Support**

The Governor may, on behalf of the State of Maine, accept public and private grants and gifts in order to support the funding needs of the Maine Environmental Priorities Council. The Council shall be self-supporting with respect to all funding requirements. Public grants committed to the Council will be managed by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection shall designate a lead staff person to serve as a liaison to the Council, and may commit Department staff and resources on an in-kind basis to support the work of the Council.

The Council may convene scientific and technical experts, and members of the general public to carry out the responsibilities of the Council.

### **5. Effective Date**

This Order is effective May 22, 1997 and will remain in effect, unless specifically terminated or extended by Executive Order. This Order supersedes 9 FY 92-93.

  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
Governor