

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 9 FY 04/05
9 FY 04/05
DATE January 8, 2004

**AN ORDER CREATING THE GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE
SUSTAINABILITY OF THE FOREST PRODUCTS INDUSTRY IN MAINE**

WHEREAS, Maine's economic health, traditional landscape and the welfare of its workers and communities is tied to the viability of the forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, the forest products industry is a mature industry facing intense competition from abroad; and

WHEREAS, the economic and public policy forces influencing continued investment are creating conditions that threaten the sustainability of Maine's forest products industry; and

WHEREAS, the circumstances confronting the Maine forest products industry, and the economic and social communities closely tied to it, require a collaborative process to develop policy recommendations intended to support and enhance the long-term sustainability of the forest products industry in Maine;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby establish the Governor's Advisory Council on the Sustainability of the Forest Products Industry in Maine (hereinafter "Advisory Council").

Purpose

The purpose of the Advisory Council is to develop recommendations to improve the competitiveness of Maine's forest products industry nationally and internationally. In conducting its work, the Advisory Council should:

1. Examine the state's tax policy and regulatory framework to identify factors that impede capital investment in new equipment and technology, including financing programs, environmental regulations and tax policies.
2. Consider strategies to improve the quality, productivity and accessibility of Maine's timber supply, including the capacity to assess the character and extent of Maine's forest

resources; efficient and cost effective transportation; and protection from new exotic pests.

3. Identify the major vulnerabilities facing the industry, together with the obstacles to continued growth.
4. Examine opportunities to brand Maine's forest products through promotion of sustainable forest management, such as green certification. This effort should include recommendations to expand the market for Maine's certified forest products, nationally and internationally, in order to demonstrate Maine's leadership role in sustainable forest management.
5. Identify strategies to increase the use of research and technology, focusing on the competitive advantages of Maine tree species to expand the development of forest products, including: commercialization of new technologies like wood composites; increased development of value-added wood products; and investigating the use of new by-product technologies.
6. Identify strategies to support the workforce infrastructure needed to maintain a vibrant forest products industry. This should include an examination of issues relating to the recruitment and retention of loggers, as well as other labor force needs.
7. Examine ways to develop creative partnerships between managed forests and outdoor recreation/tourism.
8. Examine ways to reduce energy costs, including utilizing existing energy resources, and investigating options for self-generation of power.

In conducting its work, the Advisory Council shall utilize information from businesses and business organizations, landowners, Indian tribal governments, and government agencies.

Membership

The Governor shall appoint eleven members to the Advisory Council, who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Four members shall represent the business community; one member shall be from organized labor; one member shall be an owner of forest land, or a designee; one member shall be an industrial energy rate expert; one member shall be the Commissioner of Conservation, or his designee; one member shall be the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, or her designee; one member shall be the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, or his designee; and one member shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine, or his designee. The Commissioner of Economic & Community Development shall chair the Advisory Council. Members shall serve without compensation.

The Speaker of the House and President of the Senate may each appoint one member from his or her respective body, which member shall serve at the pleasure of the Speaker or the President, as applicable.

Staff

The Departments of Economic and Community Development and Conservation shall provide all necessary staff, from existing resources.

Timeline for Recommendations

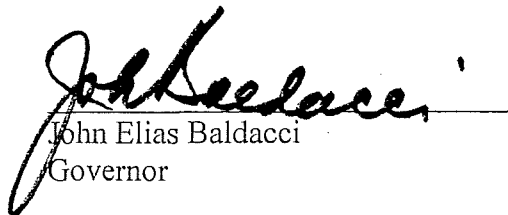
The Advisory Council shall submit its recommendations to the Governor no later than August 31, 2004, after which the Advisory Council will dissolve.

Meetings

The Advisory Council shall meet as often as necessary to complete the assigned duties. One meeting shall be scheduled to provide the Maine Forest Service's "Future Forest Project" an opportunity to present its work to the Advisory Council. All meetings shall be open to the public and held in locations determined by the Advisory Council.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is January 8, 2004.



John Elias Baldacci
Governor