

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE LAWYER
AUGUST, 2005

OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 31 FY 04/05
DATE February 2, 2005

**AN ORDER TO CREATE THE MAINE WIRELESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS
INFRASTRUCTURE BOARD**

WHEREAS, Maine's economy is increasingly reliant on innovation and entrepreneurship; and

WHEREAS, telecommunications infrastructure is essential for all economies to compete in a global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, telecommunications infrastructure is critically important in harnessing the creative power and energy of sectors of the Maine economy, such as the Creative Economy and Maine's young people; and

WHEREAS, as a rural State, Maine is particularly dependent on wireless communication services to connect Maine businesses and communities to the global community; and

WHEREAS, a strong telecommunications infrastructure can be a catalyst for encouraging entrepreneurial activity, expanding cultural and tourism opportunities, creating new technology and financial sector jobs, rebuilding our downtowns, and enhancing the overall economic health of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Maine's wireless communications network is plagued by poor service quality; and

WHEREAS, Maine has taken a leadership role in developing a telecommunications infrastructure that can be a strong foundation for further investments in wireless communications;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby announce the Maine Wireless Telecommunications Infrastructure Board ("MWTIB"):

I. Purpose

The MWTIB shall develop and lead the implementation of a plan to provide universal wireless telecommunications coverage by 2008. To wit, the MWTIB shall:


1. **Service Availability Study.** Identify areas of the State where service availability requires improvement by utilizing available public and private information.
2. **Technology Assessment.** Assess the various forms of wireless infrastructure available to consumers in Maine, including the wireless infrastructure used by State agencies, and identify synergies that could be realized by coordinated use.
3. **State, Local and Federal Regulatory Review.** Review relevant local and state tower siting criteria and explore methods of streamlining regulatory review. Propose state agency co-location and easement potential.
5. **Wireless Communications Expansion Plan.** Utilize the service availability study and the technology assessment results to develop a plan and draft any necessary implementing legislation to achieve universal wireless telecommunications coverage by 2008.
6. **Other.** Involve stakeholders and undertake such other tasks intended to advance Maine's telecommunications infrastructure as it deems appropriate.

II. Membership

The Governor shall appoint eighteen (18) members to the MWTIB, who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Membership shall consist of the following: five (5) wireless service providers; one independent wireless salesperson; one representative of local government; one County Sheriff; and, one representative of an emergency service agency. In addition, the following state agencies shall be represented: the Maine Public Utilities Commission; the Office of the Public Advocate; the Department of Public Safety; the Department of Transportation; the Maine Turnpike Authority; the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife; the Department of Marine Resources; and, the Department of Administrative and Financial Services. The MWTIB shall be chaired by a representative of the Governor's Office. The term of membership shall be three years. Members shall serve without compensation. The MWTIB shall meet as often as necessary to complete assigned duties. The costs for implementing the tasks included in this Executive Order will be absorbed by the participating agencies.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

The effective date of this Executive Order is February 2, 2005, this Executive Order shall terminate on, or before, January 1, 2008.



John Elias Baldacci
Governor