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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 02 FY 06/07
DATE August 4, 2005

**AN ORDER CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
TASK FORCE FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the Governor appointed a Personal Representative to Washington County pursuant to Executive Order 44 FY 04/05 (dated June 24, 2005) in order to coordinate the State's effort to bring sustainable economic development to Washington County; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the economic development opportunities in a concerted and analytical way, local insight and knowledge of Washington County will be an important component of developing both a short and long term, viable economic development plan; and

WHEREAS, bipartisan support exists for developing economic opportunities in Washington County:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John E. Baldacci, Governor of the State of Maine, do hereby create the Washington County Economic Development Task Force:

I. Purpose

The Washington County Economic Development Task Force will make recommendations with respect to policies, regulations and statutory changes for expanding the capacity of government to assist at all levels in the economic development of Washington County and draft the necessary implementing legislation.

II. Duties

The Task Force shall undertake the following duties:

1. Gather information regarding economic conditions and trends.
2. Identify and evaluate effectiveness of all economic development programs.
3. Identify existing local businesses and their economic status.
4. Identify obstacles start-up businesses have encountered.
5. Identify regulatory procedures or costs that have exceeded their benefits.
6. Assess availability of capital and infrastructure.
7. Research and recommend educational opportunities that should be pursued, such as adult education, vocational colleges, and traditional trades.
8. Evaluate the tourism potential and how the state can assist in marketing tourism opportunities.

III. Responsibilities

The Task Force shall submit interim recommendations, including, but not limited to, draft legislation for the Governor's consideration, to the Governor by December 15, 2005, and a final report no later than May 1, 2006.

IV. Membership

The Task Force shall consist of no more than twenty-three (23) members. The Washington County Delegation, the Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative, and the County Commissioners for Washington County shall be invited to participate on the Task Force. The Governor shall appoint, based on the recommendations of the co-chairs, the remaining members as follows:

- The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, or his designee;
- One representative of the Community College System;
- One representative of the University of Maine System;
- One representative from the Work Force Investment Board for Aroostook & Washington County; and
- Other members representing business, economic and financial interests.

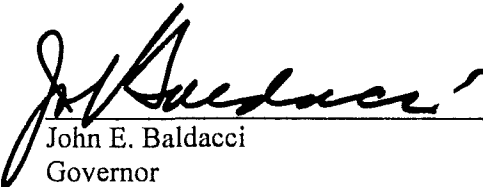
The Task Force shall be co-chaired by Representative Ed Dugay and County Commissioner Kevin Shorey. All Task Force members shall serve without compensation or reimbursement.

V. Implementation Costs

The costs for implementing the duties included in this Executive Order will be absorbed by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Effective Date

The effective date of this Executive Order is August 4, 2005. The Washington County Economic Development Task Force will complete its work and disband no later than May 1, 2006.


John E. Baldacci
Governor