

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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July 30, 2008

Dear Legislative Council,

Thank you for putting me on today's agenda. I want to fill you in with what is happening with the Natural Resource Agency Task Force, which was created in the budget package. The purpose of the task force is to improve the efficiency and services of the five natural resource agencies, those being the departments of Agriculture, Conservation, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Marine Resources, and Environmental Protection.

It is a governor's task force, and all members were appointed by his office. It consists of close to 40 members, made up primarily of stakeholders, with seven legislators, the five agency commissioners and representation from the state planning office and from the governor's office. Karen Tilberg and I are the co-chairs. Ron Beard of Cooperative Extension is acting as facilitator.

We have had three full day meetings to date, with a two day meeting planned for September and two full day follow-up meetings scheduled for October and November.

Attendance has been excellent, and the group is starting to put together ideas. We have also created a survey which is being circulated to generate more input. The September meeting is when we expect to come up with more concrete recommendations, which we will then take to the public before compiling a final report. All information is available through the state planning office, at maine.gov/spo.

We expect that both the governor and various legislators will offer proposed legislation to implement the recommendations of the task force. In order to deal with such cross agency legislation, I would like to request consideration of a Joint Select Committee being appointed to consider any such legislation. While I realize that it is not this Legislative Council that will make this decision, I am requesting that you consider endorsing the idea.

Thank you,

Wendy Pieh

Natural Resource Agency Task Force
2008 Membership

Rep. Wendy Pieh, Co-Chair ACF Committee State of Maine Legislature	Sen. Dennis Damon MAR Committee State of Maine Legislature
Karin Tilberg, Co-Chair Senior Policy Advisor State of Maine	Sally Stockwell Maine Audubon
Sebastian Belle Maine Aquaculture Association	John Oliver LL Bean
Patrice McCarron Maine Shellfish Company	Barrie Brusila Mid-Maine Forestry
Andrew Goode Atlantic Salmon Federation	Tom Doak SWOAM
Don Flannery Maine Potato Board	Peter Didisheim Natural Resources Council of Maine
Jon Olson Maine Farm Bureau	Rep. Ben Pratt Legislator, Angler, Maine Guide and Rafting Guide
Russell Libby MOFGA	Rep. Bob Duschene Legislator, outdoor tourism and wildlife interests
Julie-Marie Bickford Maine Dairy Industry Association	John Delahanty Pierce Atwood
Sen. Bruce Bryant IFW Committee State of Maine Legislature	Sean Mahoney Conservation Law Foundation
Rep. Donald Marean ACF Committee State of Maine Legislature	Norm Trask Maine Professional Guides Association
Rep. Ted Koffman NAT Committee State of Maine Legislature	Don Kleiner Bowhunters Association
	Dennis Smith Citizen Angler

George Smith
Sportsmen's Alliance of Maine

Bob Meyers
Maine Snowmobile Association

Patrick Strauch
Maine Forest Products Council

John Marsh
Former Legislator, small businessman,
fishing and marine interests

David Littell, Commissioner
Dept. of Environmental Protection
State of Maine

Patrick McGowan, Commissioner
Dept. of Conservation
State of Maine

Brad Bradstreet, Commissioner
Dept. of Agriculture
State of Maine

Danny Martin, Commissioner
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
State of Maine

George Lapointe, Commissioner
Marine Resources
State of Maine

Martha Freeman, Director
State Planning Office
State of Maine

Ron Beard
UMaine Cooperative Extension

Jody Breton
DAFS Central Building 6

Rhonda Cook
Maine Aquaculture Association

Tim Glidden, Director
Land for Maine's Future Program
State of Maine