

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT


March 14, 2006

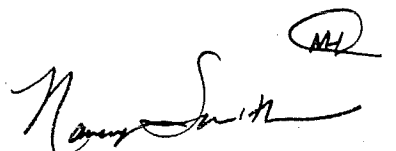
The Honorable Beth Edmonds
President of the Senate
The Honorable John Richardson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
122nd Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35, we are pleased to submit the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development from the review and evaluation of the Department of Economic and Community Development under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the Committee found that the Department is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,


Senator Lynn Bromley
Chair


Representative Nancy Smith
Chair

cc: Laurie Lachance, President, Maine Development Foundation
Patrick Norton, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis

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COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Date: March 14, 2006

To: The Honorable John Richardson, Chair
The Honorable Beth Edmonds, Vice-Chair
Legislative Council, 122nd Maine Legislature

From: Senator Lynn Bromley, Senate Chair
Representative Nancy Smith, House Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development

Subject: Government Evaluation Act Review of the Department of Economic and
Community Development

This memorandum is to inform you that the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development has submitted its findings and recommendations from the review and evaluation of the Department of Economic and Community Development under the State Government Evaluation Act to the Legislature pursuant to Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

cc: Members, Legislative Council
David Boulter, Executive Director, Legislative Council

<p style="text-align:center">JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</p>

**Review of the Department of Economic and Community Development under
the Government Evaluation Act
March 2006**

The Government Evaluation Act

The Government Evaluation Act provides for a system of periodic review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies (3 MRSA §951 et seq). The keystone of the Act is the agency program evaluation report that consists of a number of components required by the statute. Essentially, the report is an agency self-assessment, which the committee of jurisdiction uses as a starting point for its evaluation of the agency's effectiveness, efficiency and performance.

Review Process

On April 29, 2005, the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development notified the Department of Economic and Community Development of its intent to review the agency pursuant to the schedule established in 3 MRSA, §959. The Department of Economic and Community Development submitted its program evaluation report as requested.

On January 12, 2006, the commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development presented the Program Evaluation Report to the Committee. The Business, Research and Economic Development Committee held a work session on February 16, 2005 to discuss the information presented in the report.

Findings and Recommendation

The Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development has reviewed the Department of Economic and Community Development and finds that it is operating within its statutory authority. The Department is charged with encouraging economic and community planning and development within the context of a state economic development strategy. The Department is also charged with the responsibility of working with municipalities and regional planning and economic development organizations to strengthen Maine's economy. Detailed information about the Department of Economic and Community Development can be found in the Department's Program Evaluation Report, which meets the criteria set in statute (3 MRSA §956).