

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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State of Maine
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Justin L. Alford
President of the Senate
The Honorable Mark W. Eves
Speaker of the House of Representatives
126th Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Mr. 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 Environment and Natural Resources from the review and evaluation of the Saco River Corridor Commission under the State Government Evaluation Act. In its review, the Committee found that the Commission is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James A. Boyle in black ink.

Senator James A. Boyle
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of Joan W. Welsh in black ink.

Representative Joan W. Welsh
House Chair

cc: Marion Hylan Barr, Director, Office of Policy and Legal Analysis
Dennis Finn, Executive Director, Saco River Corridor Commission

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**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Review of the Saco River Corridor Commission
Pursuant to the Government Evaluation Act**

The Government Evaluation Act

The Government Evaluation Act (“Act”) provides for a system of periodic review of the efficacy and performance of state government agencies. The law, enacted in the 117th Legislature to replace the Government Audit and Program Review Program, substitutes a legislative audit of each agency with an agency self-assessment.

The keystone to the Act is the agency program evaluation report, which consists of a number of components required by the statute. Essentially, the report is an agency self-assessment that the committee of jurisdiction uses as a starting point for its evaluation of the agency’s effectiveness, efficiency and performance. The components that must be included in the report are: the agency’s enabling statutes; program descriptions; organizational structure, position count and job classifications; compliance with federal and state health and safety laws; ten-year financial summaries; regulatory agenda; coordinated efforts with other state agencies; constituencies served by the agency; alternative delivery systems; emerging issues for the agency; comparison of state laws to federal laws; policies regarding use of personal information; and public filing requirements.

Review Process

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources notified the Saco River Corridor Commission of its intent to review the Commission. The Commission submitted its Program Evaluation Report on October 23, 2013. The Committee held a worksession on the report on January 16, 2014. At the worksession, the Executive Director of the Commission, Dennis Finn, reviewed the Commission's report with the Committee.

Findings of Review

The Saco River Corridor Commission is charged with implementing Title 38 MRSA chapter 6 within the Saco River Corridor. The purpose of chapter 6 is to preserve existing water quality; prevent the diminution of water supplies; control erosion; protect fish and wildlife populations; prevent undue extremes of flood and drought; limit the loss of life and damage to property from periodic floods; preserve the scenic, rural and unspoiled character of the lands adjacent to these rivers; prevent obstructions to navigation; prevent overcrowding; avoid the mixture of incompatible uses; protect those areas of exceptional scenic, historic, archaeological, scientific and educational importance; and protect the public health, safety and general welfare by creating the Saco River Corridor and by regulating the use of land and water within the corridor area.

The Joint Standing Committee on Natural Resources finds that the Saco River Corridor Commission is operating within its statutory authority.