

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY**

January 27, 2023

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority due by February 1, 2023.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mr. James Cohen in black ink.

Mr. James Cohen
Chairman
Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

Handwritten signature of Ms. Patricia Quinn in black ink.

Ms. Patricia Quinn
Executive Director
Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

A Report to the Maine State Legislature

regarding

**Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority
pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. Section 12023**

January 23th, 2023

5 M.R.S.A. Section 12023

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority



**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY**

Introduction

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. Section 12023, as a quasi-independent state entity, the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is required to prepare and submit an annual report. The section states that:

“2. Ongoing Reports. By February 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, a governing body shall submit a report to the Legislature containing the following information:

- A. A list of all procurements exceeding \$10,000 in the preceding year for which competitive procurement was waived under the policies adopted pursuant to section 12022, subsection 3, including procurements exceeding \$10,000 that were made under contracts previously entered into for which competitive procurement was not required. The list must include the names of the vendors and costs associated with those procurements;*
- B. A list of all persons to which the entity made contributions greater than \$1,000 in the preceding year and the total amount contributed to each; and*
- C. A description of changes made in the preceding year to the written policies and procedures required by section 12022 or to the procedures used by the governing body to monitor compliance with those policies and procedures.”*

This report contains the required information to satisfy subsection 2(A), (B), and (C).

Background

The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) is a public transportation authority created in 1995 by the Maine State Legislature to develop and provide passenger rail service for Maine. Our mission is to develop and manage a quality passenger rail system that meets the transportation needs of our customers, delivers value and enhances economic development within the region we serve. NNEPRA manages Amtrak’s Downeaster service as well as providing oversight with other entities to provide station, food service, and marketing support.

Today as a result of a series of investments and improvements, the Downeaster operates five round trips daily between Brunswick, ME and Boston, MA along a 143-mile corridor serving 12 stations in three states with a travel time of three hours and 20 minutes. The Downeaster is an integral part of Maine’s transportation network linking six station communities – Brunswick, Freeport, Portland, Old Orchard Beach, Saco, and Wells - within Maine.

The NNEPRA team is committed to the sustained growth of the Amtrak Downeaster and is exploring innovative ways to improve mobility, advance safety, support a growing economy and provide value for the people of Maine and Northern New England.

Subsection 2 (A): Procurements Exceeding \$10,000 – Competitive Procurement Waived

The table below provides a list of all procurements exceeding \$10,000 for which the competitive process was waived during the preceding fiscal year, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

**§ 12023 Reports to the Legislature Subsection 2(A)
Procurements Exceeding \$10,000 - Competitive Procurement Waived
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

Date	Vendor Name	Amount	Procurement Method (Justification is on file at NNEPRA's Office)	Funding Source
7/1/2021	Farrell, Rosenblatt, Russell	\$64,676.00	Legal Services - Available only from one source	5307 Formula Grant

Subsection 2 (B): Contributions Exceeding \$1,000

The table below provides a list of all contributions exceeding \$1,000 during the preceding fiscal year, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

**Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority
§ 12023 Reports to the Legislature Subsection 2B
Contributions Exceeding \$1,000
July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022**

Date	Description	Over \$1,000 - Sponsorship	Over \$1,000 - Membership Dues
1/18/22	States for Passenger Rail Coalition - 2022 Dues	\$0.00	\$7,000.00

Subsection 2 (C): Changes to Written Policies and Procedures

There was an update to the Procurement and Contract Administration Policy and Procedures as well as the adoption of the Remote participation Policy in the preceding fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022. The Procurement Policy was updated to reflect administrative roles, current regulatory requirements, and clarified practices related to electronic bidding to accommodate

remote working. There were no changes to the procedures used by the governing body for compliance with those policies and procedures.