

November 9, 2017

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree and Representative Poliquin:

The 151 undersigned Maine companies and organizations urge you to ensure that critical and successful programs benefitting Maine people are adequately funded in the FY18 fiscal year, by continuing the bipartisan practice of providing relief from sequestration budget cuts, with parity, for defense and “non-defense discretionary” (NDD) programs.

Mainers care deeply that our air and water is clean, that our public health systems are strong, and that our seniors have access to the meals and transportation they need. We also care that our children have access to quality education and nutritious foods, that our homes are safe, warm and affordable, and that our cities and fisheries alike have the economic development tools they need to grow and prosper.

NDD programs serve these vital needs in Maine and across the country, but have been subject to repeated cuts over the past six years as a result of the appropriations caps and sequestration process established by the 2011 Budget Control Act – so much so that the cap on NDD funding in FY17 is *13.4 percent below 2010 levels*, adjusted for inflation. These cuts are compromising our public health preparedness, weakening our infrastructure, and hurting our people.

As you and your colleagues consider an FY18 spending plan in the coming days, we ask you to remember that NDD programs support the Maine economy and help Mainers lead healthy, productive lives. **Please work together to protect NDD programs from further cuts, and provide sequestration relief that is equally balanced between defense and nondefense programs.**

We appreciate your consideration of our concerns, and look forward to working with you to help produce a bipartisan budget agreement that keeps Maine, and the nation, safe and secure.

Sincerely,

30-Mile River Watershed Association, Mt. Vernon
ABG Consulting, Gray
Alliance for Addiction and Mental Health Services, Augusta
American Council of Engineering Companies of Maine

Anew Development, LLC, Portland
Apartments for People, LLC, Belfast
Auburn Housing Authority
Augusta Housing
Avesta Housing, Portland
Bangor Area Homeless Shelter
BangorHousing
Bath Housing Authority
Benchmark Construction, Westbrook
Becker Structural Engineers, Portland
Biddeford Housing Authority
Brewer Housing Authority
Brunswick Housing Authority
C&C Realty Management, LLC, Augusta
C.M. Cimino Realty, Inc., Westbrook
Coastal Enterprises Inc., Brunswick
CohnReznick, Yarmouth
Community Concepts, Inc., Lewiston
Community Housing of Maine, Portland
Community Youth Services, Inc., Auburn
Conservation Law Foundation, Portland
Crede Associates, LLC, Westbrook
CWS Architects, Portland
Developers Collaborative, Portland
Dover-Foxcroft Housing Development Corporation
Ellsworth Housing Authority
Emmaus Homeless Shelter, Ellsworth
Environmental Health Strategy Center, Portland
Fair Tide, Kittery
Families and Children Together, Bangor
Family Crisis Services, Portland
Four Directions Development Corporation, Orono
Frannie Peabody Center, Portland
Freeport Community Services
Freeport Housing Trust
Friends of Casco Bay, South Portland
Gawron Turgeon Architects, Scarborough
Ganneston Construction Corp., Augusta
Genesis Community Loan Fund, Brunswick
GrowSmart Maine

Herring Gut Learning Center, St. George
Homestart, Peaks Island
Housing Advisory Group, Yarmouth
Housing Authority of Fort Fairfield
Housing Initiatives of New England Corporation, Portland
Island Institute, Rockland
Islesboro Island Trust
John Anton, Consultant
Kaplan Thompson Architects, Portland
Kennebec Valley Community Action Program, Waterville
LaBrecque Property Management, LLC, Sabattus
Lewiston Housing Authority
Loaves & Fishes, Inc., Waldoboro
Lubec Community Outreach Center
Maine Affordable Housing Coalition
Maine Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Maine Association of Nonprofits
Maine Association of Public Housing Directors
Maine Audubon, Falmouth
Maine Center for Economic Policy, Augusta
Maine Children's Alliance
Maine Community Action Association
Maine Conservation Voters
Maine Council of Churches
Maine Council on Aging
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Maine Head Start Directors Association
Maine Management Consulting, Portland
Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Co. & Museum, Portland
Maine People's Alliance, Lewiston
Maine Public Health Association
Maine Real Estate Managers Association
Maine Rivers, Yarmouth
Maine Small Business Coalition, Lewiston
Maine Water Environment Association
Maine Workforce Housing LLC, Portland
Mayors' Coalition
MCH, Inc., Rockland
Midcoast Conservancy, Wiscasset
Mook Sea Farm, Walpole

Mount Desert Island Housing Authority
Murray, Plumb & Murray, P.A., Portland
Natural Resources Council of Maine
New Beginnings, Lewiston
New Hope for Women, Rockland
NFI North, Bridgton
Northern Maine Development Commission, Caribou
Northern New England Housing Investment Fund, Portland
Old Town Housing Authority
Otis Atwell, South Portland
Penquis, Bangor
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter, Portland
Portland Housing Authority
Preble Street, Portland
Presque Isle Housing Authority
R.L.W. Management, Inc., Caribou
Raise-Op Housing Cooperative, Lewiston
Realty Resources Management, Rockport
RESTORE: The North Woods, Hallowell
Rumford Group Homes, Rumford
SAGE Maine, Portland
Sanford Housing Authority
Scovil Apartments, Blaine
Sea Coast Management Company, Topsham
SeniorsPlus, Lewiston
Shalom House, Inc., Portland
Sierra Club Maine
Silver Street Development Corporation, Portland
South Portland Housing Authority
Southern Maine Agency on Aging
Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, Portland
Sparhawk Group, Portland
Spurwink Services, Portland
Stanford Management LLC, Portland
Stewart Property Management, Augusta
Sunrise Opportunities, Machias
Sunrise/Quoddy View Apartments, Lubec
Susan L. Curtis Foundation, Portland
Sweetser, Saco
Syntiro, Readfield

Tedford Housing, Brunswick
The Caleb Group, Swampscott, MA
The Housing Foundation, Orono
The Housing Partnership, Kennebunk
The Locker Project, Portland
The Opportunity Alliance, South Portland
The Pines, Ocean Park
The Wishcamper Companies, Inc.
Thornton Tomasetti, Portland
Tri-County Literacy, Bath
United Midcoast Charities, Camden
United Way of Androscoggin County
United Way of Eastern Maine
United Way of Greater Portland
United Way of York County
Uplift, Inc., Gardiner
Van Buren Housing Authority
Veterans Inc., Lewiston
Volunteers of America of Northern New England, Brunswick
Waterville Housing Authority
Westbrook Housing Authority
Western Maine Community Action, Inc., East Wilton
White Pine Programs, Cape Neddick
Wright-Ryan Construction, Inc., Portland
York County Shelter Programs, Inc., Alfred
York Housing
Zachau Construction, Freeport