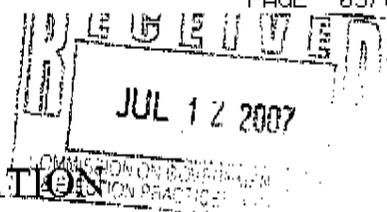


# Agenda Item #7

**THE MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION**

P.O. Box 148, 103 Water Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Hallowell, ME 04347

Telephone (207) 622-0136 • Fax (207) 622-0576 • E-mail: [futureseas@aol.com](mailto:futureseas@aol.com)

Wednesday, July 11, 2007

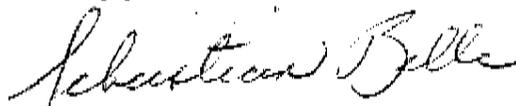
VIA FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Jonathan Wayne, Commission Director  
Commission on Governmental Ethics & Election Practices  
135 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Director Wayne,

I am writing to you in regards to a recent notification I received from the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices dated June 18, 2007. (See, attached) I am not disputing the fact that the May Lobbyist Monthly was filed on Sunday, June 17, 2007, two days after the due date. Although I realize that there is no excuse for the late filing, I would ask that you take into consideration my filing record. Since I became a lobbyist in 2001, all monthly report and annual reports have been filed in a timely fashion and I have worked hard to ensure that the guidelines set forth by the ethics commission have been adhered to. As a one time courtesy, I would ask that this penalty be waived or reassessed.

Sincerely yours,



Sebastian M. Belle

SMB/rkc  
Enclosure



STATE OF MAINE  
 COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS  
 AND ELECTION PRACTICES  
 135 STATE HOUSE STATION  
 AUGUSTA, MAINE  
 04333-0135

To: Sebastian Belle, Lobbyist for:  
 Maine Aquaculture Association

From: Martha Demeritt, Lobbyist Registrar

Date: June 18, 2007

Each registered lobbyist is required to file monthly reports with the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices no later than 15 calendar days following the month that is the subject of the report. Reports are due by 5:00 p.m. Any person who fails to file a timely report may be assessed a penalty of \$100 for every month the report is late. You filed your May Lobbyist Monthly Disclosure report on 6/17/07. The penalty is \$100.

If you agree with this preliminary penalty determination, you may use the attached billing statement to pay that amount within 30 days of the date of this notice. Please mail your remittance to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices, 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333.

However, if you have a valid reason for filing late, you may request the Commission to make a final penalty determination. Address your request for penalty mitigation or waiver to the Commission Director, Jonathan Wayne. The Commission will notify you of the disposition of your case within 10 days after its determination.

Any person who fails to file a report or pay a fee may be suspended from further lobbying by written notice of the Commission until such failure is corrected.

Please direct any questions you may have about this matter to the Commission at (207) 287-6221.

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 Cut Along Dotted Line  
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To: Commission on Governmental Ethics  
 and Election Practices  
 135 State House Station  
 Augusta, Maine 04333

From: Sebastian Belle, Lobbyist for:  
 Maine Aquaculture Association

Re: Penalty for late filing of the May Lobbyist Disclosure Report (\$100)

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check/M.O. No.: # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make Check or Money Order Payable to Treasurer, State of Maine

OFFICE LOCATED AT: 242 STATE STREET, AUGUSTA, MAINE  
 WEBSITE: WWW.MAINE.GOV/ETHICS

STATE OF MAINE  
**COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS & ELECTION PRACTICES**  
 Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333  
 Office: 242 State Street, Augusta, Maine  
 Phone: (207) 287-6221 Fax: (207) 287-6775  
 Website: <http://www.maine.gov/ethics>  
 Electronic Filing: <http://mainecampaignfinance.com/public/home.asp>

**LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE MONTHLY REPORT - LONG FORM**

Lobbyist disclosure monthly reports are due by 5 p.m. on the 15th day of the month following the month which is the subject of the report. If the 15th day falls on a weekend or a holiday, the report is due the following business day. A penalty of \$100 may be assessed for every month the report is filed late. (Additional sheets may be attached as needed.)

1. This report covers lobbying activity conducted during the month of     MAY    ,     2007     (year)

2. Lobbyist name BELLE, SEBASTIAN	Telephone (207)622-0136
Business address P.O. BOX 148	E-mail fyturceas@aol.com
City, state, zip code HALLOWELL ME 04347	Fax (207)622-0576

3. Employer name MAINE AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION	Principal lobbyist contact name NELL HALSE
Business address P.O. BOX 148	Telephone (207)622-0139
City, state, zip code HALLOWELL ME 04347	E-mail Fax (207)622-0576

4. Enter the names of lobbyist associates who acted for the lobbyist in representing the employer during the month which is the subject of this report.

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5. Specify the dollar amount of compensation received for lobbying, the preparation of documents, and research for the primary purpose of influencing legislative action during the month which is the subject of this report. In the case of a regular employee, the specific dollar amount must be computed by multiplying the number of hours devoted to lobbying and the preparation of documents and research for the primary purpose of influencing legislative action by the employee's regular rate of pay based on a 40-hour week. **DO NOT INCLUDE AMOUNTS LISTED IN ITEMS #6, #7A, #7B, 8 AND #9.**

342.40

6. Specify the dollar amount of expenditures made during the month which is the subject of this report with regard to the preparation of documents and research for the primary purpose of influencing legislative action and to lobbying for which the lobbyist has been or expects to be reimbursed.

0.00

7A. Specify the total amount of money expended directly to or on behalf of one or more officials of the legislative branch, including members of the official's immediate family. \$ 0.00

7B. If a dollar amount was entered in section 7A, specify the amount for which the lobbyist has been or expects to be reimbursed. \$ 0.00

8. Enter the name of any official in the legislative branch or member of that official's immediate family on whose behalf an expenditure of expenditures totaling \$25 or more were made during the month covered by this report and the date, amount and purpose of the expenditure or expenditures.

Name	Date	Amount	Purpose

9. Enter the date and a description of the event, and list all officials of the legislative branch or administrative agency or members of an official's immediate family and the total amount of expenditures for the event, if the total amount of the expenditures for officials and family members total \$250 or more.

Date	Description	Official/family member	Amount

10. List each legislative action by Legislative Document number or, if unknown, by Senate Paper or House Paper number or, if unknown, by topic or nomination in connection with which the lobbyist is engaged in lobbying.

1318-253-1081-1615-1684-1685-1778-1848-1893-277

11. Specifically identify each legislative action, Legislative Document, Senate Paper, House Paper or nomination for which the lobbyist was compensated or expects to be compensated, or expended in excess of \$1,000 for lobbying activities related to those actions, and state the amounts compensated or expended for each.

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12. If the lobbyist is required to make a specific list of items in the preceding section of this form, list all original sources of any money received from that employer. "ORIGINAL SOURCE" means any person who contributes \$500 or more in any year directly or indirectly to any employer of a lobbyist, except that contributions of membership dues to nonprofit corporations formed under Title 13-B, any equivalent state law, or by legislative enactment are not considered contributions by an original source. If the employer or person who contributes to an employer is a corporation formed under Titles 13 or 13-A, nonprofit corporation formed under Title 13-B, or limited partnership under Title 31, list the corporation, nonprofit organization or limited partnership, not the individual members or contributors as the original source.

I, the undersigned, hereby swear or affirm that the information contained in this report is true and complete, and that no information is knowingly withheld.

SIGNATURE ON FILE \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/17/2007

Signature of lobbyist or designee \_\_\_\_\_ Date

Sworn falsification is a Class D crime(17-A M.R.S.A. Section 453).

THE COMMISSION MAY REJECT REPORTS THAT ARE INCOMPLETE.

NOTE: Violations of 17-A M.R.S.A. Chapter 25, are criminal offenses. Those provisions should be carefully reviewed before making expenditures on behalf of officials in the legislative branch.

## Title 3, §319, Penalty

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### §319. Penalty

**1. Failure to file registration or report.** Any person who fails to file a registration or report as required by this chapter may be assessed a fine of \$100 for each person listed or who should have been listed on the lobbyist registration for every month the person fails to register or is delinquent in filing a report pursuant to section 317. The commission may waive the penalty in whole or in part if the commission determines the failure to register or report was due to mitigating circumstances.

[1993, c. 691, §22 (rpr).]

**1-A. Notice of suspension.** Any person who fails to file a report or pay a fee as required by this chapter may be suspended from further lobbying by written notice of the commission until such failure is corrected.

[1993, c. 446, Pt. B, §12 (amd).]

2.

[1979, c. 632, §3 (rp).]

**3. Exemption.** Notwithstanding section 317, subsection 1, a registered lobbyist is exempt from the penalty imposed under this section if, while the Legislature is convened in special session, the lobbyist failed to file a report with the commission pursuant to section 317 if no lobbying has been performed during that special session.

[1993, c. 446, Pt. B, §13 (amd).]

PL 1975, Ch. 576, § (NEW).

PL 1975, Ch. 621, §2 (RP).

PL 1975, Ch. 724, § (REN).

PL 1977, Ch. 696, §17 (AMD).

PL 1979, Ch. 632, §3 (RPR).

PL 1989, Ch. 114, § (AMD).

PL 1991, Ch. 465, §2 (AMD).

PL 1993, Ch. 446, §A15, B11-13 (AMD).

PL 1993, Ch. 691, §22 (AMD).