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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

February 3, 2009

Honorable Hannah Pingree, Chair  
Honorable Elizabeth Mitchell, Vice-Chair  
and Members of the Legislative Council

Dear Speaker Pingree, President Mitchell and Members of the Legislative Council:

At our meeting on January 30, 2009, Director Ashcroft presented us with OPEGA's proposed biennial budget for approval as required by 3 MRSA §995.2. After some discussion, and in recognition of the State's current financial situation, we requested that the Director present us with a proposal for reducing the proposed budget for 2010 – 2011. The Director did provide that proposal and the GOC approved a revised biennial budget that included the reductions proposed by the Director.

Accordingly, we recommend to the Legislative Council that the proposed biennial budget for OPEGA for 2010 – 2011 be reduced in the All Other category by \$46,483 for 2010 and \$45,483 for 2011 - a total of \$91,966 over the biennium. These reductions are in addition to the reductions previously proposed by the Director and that are already included in the Governor's Proposed Biennial Budget as a budget initiative - \$34,864 in de-appropriations for 2010 and \$32,278 for 2011.

Taken together, the GOC supports total biennial reductions of \$159,108 or 8.2% of the Office's total FY08/FY09 appropriations. The net effect is that OPEGA's biennial budget for FY10/FY11 will be \$1,925,301. This budget absorbs the typical salary increases built into the Personal Services category and still achieves a slight net reduction of .4% from FY08/FY09 levels.

Director Ashcroft has provided the Executive Director with the details of these recommended reductions. We respectfully request to be notified when the Council's Budget Subcommittee considers OPEGA's budget so that we may be available to speak about our recommendation and any other changes the Budget Subcommittee may be considering.

Sincerely,

Senator Deborah Simpson  
Senate Chair

Representative Dawn Hill  
House Chair

cc: David Boulter, Executive Director of the Legislative Council  
Members of the Government Oversight Committee