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State of Maine
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

March 27, 2013

Honorable Emily Cain, Senate Chair
Honorable Chuck Kruger, House Chair
Government Oversight Committee
Augusta, ME 04333

Cc: Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, Maine Department of
Education, Maine Charter School Commission

Senator Cain and Representative Kruger,

As Chairs of the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, we request an immediate review by the Government Oversight Committee of the Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, and related policies and procedures of the Maine Charter School Commission.

Because of changes within the Academy's management, including changes to the Board of Directors, a number of serious concerns have arisen about the school's viability and financial status as well as concerns about the integrity of the application process and subsequent approval granted by the Maine Charter School Commission.

In particular, we request that, at a minimum, the following matters be reviewed and addressed:

- The process and standards by which the Maine State Charter Commission reviewed and granted approval of the Baxter Academy of Technology and Science, including review of the Academy's financial statements;
- An explanation and understanding of the Maine State Charter Commission's role in providing advice and assistance to the Academy during the application process, and whether a standard or consistent approach has been taken with all applicants; and,
- Financial viability of the Baxter Academy for Technology and Science in light of allegations made by its own Board of Directors.

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The Education and Cultural Affairs Committee has the responsibility to ensure that the Maine State Charter Commission is conducting its business appropriately and according to its adopted rules and procedures under Chapter 2 of Rules for Independent Agencies.

Additionally, we want to ensure that this school administrative unit, Baxter Academy of Technology and Science, under title 20-A, is managing its operations and spending Maine taxpayer dollars appropriately. We believe there is a sense of urgency to understand these matters due to the impending scheduled meeting by the Maine Charter School Commission on April 8, 2013. As part of its mission, the Government Oversight Committee has a history and responsibility to ensure accountability and oversight for the people of Maine.

Included with this letter is a completed OPEGA Review Request Form.

Thank you for your immediate and prompt review of these issues. Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Sen. Rebecca Millett



Rep. Bruce MacDonald

