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STATE OF MAINE

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**Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification  
and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are  
Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Representative Mark W. Eves, Speaker of the House, Chair  
Senator Justin L. Alford, President of the Senate, Vice-Chair  
Legislative Council  
c/o Suzanne Gresser, Acting Executive Director, Legislative Council

**FROM:** Senator Chris Johnson and Representative Mick Devin, co-chairs  
Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and  
Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the  
Maine Coast

**DATE:** 25 September 2014

**RE: Request for Approval of Two Additional Meetings**

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The Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and Its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast requests approval for two meetings in addition to the four meetings already approved by the Legislative Council. Public Law 2013, c. 110 requires the commission to meet no fewer than 4 times over the interim and to submit its report to the Joint Standing Committee of Marine Resources by December 5, 2014. The Legislative Council approved and budgeted for four commission meetings, and as of today, we have met three times. Based on these meetings it is clear to us that we cannot properly carryout our duties and draft a report within the four allotted days.

Ocean acidification involves a myriad of complex scientific and policy issues and we have spent our first three meetings trying to understand the state of ocean acidification science and its implications for Maine's commercial species. The commission has work diligently to meet its duties and has established a number of subcommittees to work on specific issues and report back to the full commission. The subcommittees consist of experts in the subject matter assigned to the subcommittee and while each subcommittee has met on several occasions and have covered a lot of ground they are still working to provide a comprehensive and understandable review of the scientific data and literature.

The Legislative Council authorized the commission to spend a total of \$3,050 (\$1,500 in General Fund money and \$1,550 in outside funding) to support its activities. The commission spent \$604.35 in total for its first two meetings leaving a balance of \$2,445.65. The bulk of those expenditures were related to the commission's first meeting at Darling Marine Center in Walpole. We do not plan to hold another offsite meeting. Many of the commission members have not sought or intend to seek reimbursement for their expenses related to the commission's work. We anticipate that the existing budget will be enough to fund the last authorized meeting and the two additional meetings that we are requesting.

Currently, we will have one remaining meeting to come to an agreement on our findings and recommendations, draft the report and vote to approve the final report. Given our charge and the available funding we feel two additional meetings are necessary to accomplish our duties.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

cc: Members, Commission to Study the Effects of Coastal and Ocean Acidification and its Existing and Potential Effects on Species That Are Commercially Harvested and Grown along the Maine Coast  
Marion Hylan Barr, OPLA Director