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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Beth Edmonds, President of the Senate
Glenn Cummings, Speaker of the House

FROM: Lynn Bromley, Senate Chair
Nancy E. Smith, House Chair
Members, the Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research & Economic Development

DATE: June 13, 2007

SUBJECT: Request for Interim Meetings

The Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research & Economic Development respectfully requests authorization to hold 6 committee meetings during the interim to examine the burdens imposed by unnecessary and outdated State regulations on small businesses. The committee believes that it is the most appropriate entity to review the utility of the State's current economic regulations and is very interested in learning how it can provide any relief to small businesses that bear much of the burden of unnecessary regulatory costs. This important topic has been raised this legislative session in LD 270 (*Resolve, Establishing the Task Force to Eliminate Outdated or Unnecessary Laws and Rules to Stimulate Job Creation*), which the committee requested to carry over into the Second Regular Session.

In order to most effectively understand the type of regulations that are, in fact, unnecessary or outdated, the committee believes it should use 4 of its meetings to gather public comment from the small business community in a few areas of the State and to hear directly from business owners how the State can improve its business climate by removing any unnecessary laws and regulations. The committee intends to hold these forums at public meeting halls and other locations that are provided for the public's use free of charge. The committee feels strongly that this is a very important issue that deserves its attention during the interim. The committee's efforts in this area may help remove some impediments to economic growth in Maine and could help spur Maine's business climate.

cc: David Boulter, Executive Director
Patrick Norton, Director, OPLA
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research & Economic Development