

State of Maine Procurement Justification Form

This form must accompany all contract requests and sole source requisitions (RQS) over \$5,000 submitted to the Division of Procurement Services.

INSTRUCTIONS: Please provide the requested information in the white spaces below. All responses (except signatures) must be typed; no hand-written forms will be accepted. See the guidance document posted with this form on the Division of Procurement Services website (Forms page) for additional instructions.

PART I: OVERVIEW

Department Office/Division/Program:		Dept of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Commissioner's Office			
Department Contract Administrator or Grant Coordinator:		Denice Baron, Resource Administrator			
(If applicable) Department Reference #:					
Amount: (Contract/Amendment/Grant)	\$ 30,000	Advantage CT / RQS #:	CT 01A 20210608*3648		
CONTRACT	Proposed Start Date:	6/1/2021	Proposed End Date:	6/30/2022	
AMENDMENT	Original Start Date:		Effective Date:		
	Previous End Date:		New End Date:		
GRANT	Project Start Date:		Grant Start Date:		
	Project End Date:		Grant End Date:		
Vendor/Provider/Grantee Name, City, State:		Jo D. Saffeir, 67 Leighton Road, Pownal, ME 04069			
Brief Description of Goods/Services/Grant:		Facilitation Services			

PART II: JUSTIFICATION FOR VENDOR SELECTION

Mark an "X" before the justification(s) that applies to this request. (Check all that apply.)

	A. Competitive Process		G. Grant
	B. Amendment		H. State Statute/Agency Directed
X	C. Single Source/Unique Vendor		I. Federal Agency Directed
	D. Proprietary/Copyright/Patents		J. Willing and Qualified
X	E. Emergency		K. Client Choice
	F. University Cooperative Project		L. Other Authorization

PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Please respond to ALL of the following:

1. Provide a more detailed description and explain the need for the goods, services or grant to supplement the response in Part I.

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) and the Maine Governor's Energy Office (GEO) are convening a stakeholder group to consider the opportunities and challenges presented by solar energy development on agricultural land in Maine. The group will meet monthly throughout the summer and fall and present a report with potential policy and other recommendations to the Legislature in January 2022.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Across Maine and New England, previously undeveloped farmland and forestland have become potential sites for solar energy installations. In December 2020, the state's four-year climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, <https://climatecouncil.maine.gov/> recommended that the state work with stakeholders to develop policies for Maine that thoughtfully balance the siting of renewable projects with the protection of natural and working lands. In 2019, Maine law changed to encourage solar development. Solar developers are actively working to secure potential sites for solar installations, including agricultural land. Recent reports from other New England states suggest that much of the land used will be previously undeveloped farmland and forestland.

"The Department supports the State's goals for reducing dependence on fossil fuels and pursuing renewable energy generation. At the same time, prime soils and soils of statewide importance are finite, and they are key to Maine's current and future agricultural productivity, climate resiliency, and food security. Finding the right policies, incentives, and parameters to help balance these interests are critical," **Commissioner Amanda Beal**.

"Developing renewable energy is key to achieving Maine's bold climate and clean energy targets, fighting climate change, reducing our dependence on fossil fuels, and creating good-paying jobs around the state," **said Celina Cunningham, Deputy Director of the Governor's Energy Office**. "This stakeholder process will help inform how to properly site solar projects, to both protect valuable natural and working lands and maximize benefits to Maine people and communities."

2. Provide a brief justification for the selected vendor to supplement the response in Part II.

Due to the legislative deadline an emergency request is being processed. Jo D. Saffair has the expertise and experience and is highly capable of getting the job done. Jo D. has facilitated other highly sensitive matters, has proven communications skills and is known to meet tight deadlines. While working through summer and fall, DACF and GEO both are confident that a report with potential policy and other recommendations will be ready for the January 2022 deadline.

3. Explain how the negotiated costs or rates are fair and reasonable; or how the funding was allocated to grantee.

The Department believes the rate is fair and reasonable.

4. Describe the plan for future competition for the goods or services.

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PART III: SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

If future facilitation services are needed the Department will process a service contract and solicit bids if within the dollar value of needing such an approach.

PART IV: APPROVALS

Signature of requesting Department's Commissioner (or designee):	<i>By signing below, I signify that I approve of this procurement request.</i>		
	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Amanda E. Beal</i>		
Printed Name:	Amanda Beal, Commissioner	Date:	6/12/2021
Signature of DAFS Procurement Official:	<small>DocuSigned by:</small> <i>Debbie Jacques</i>		
Printed Name:	<small>1DFA565D481F42E...</small> Debbie Jacques	Date:	6/14/2021