2 June 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 422, “An Act To Create the Water Resources Planning Committee.”

This bill requires multiple state agencies to meet at least quarterly with interest groups to evaluate Maine’s water resources and applicable policies. However, Maine’s Executive Branch agencies already have authority to meet with each other and to engage stakeholders in policy evaluations. In fact, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has convened meetings with other agencies and stakeholders for many of the same purposes listed in this bill.

It is far more appropriate for the agencies to bring stakeholders together for specific purposes when needed—as they do now—than to have arbitrary requirements for meeting frequency and attendance. This legislation is simply unnecessary.

For this reason, I return LD 422 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor