Economic Recovery Committee
Manufacturing and Natural Resources-Based Industries Subcommittee
Tuesday, June 23, 2020 – 9:00am

1. The following subcommittee members were in attendance on the call:
   - Chair: Larry Shaw, MMG Insurance
   - Bob Dorko, Sappi
   - Susan Hammond, Four Directions
   - Sam May, Maine Harvest Federal Credit Union
   - Steve Schley, FOR/Maine
   - Staff and Support Experts:
     - Mary Grace Schley, Maine Department of Economic and Community Development
     - Hannah Carter, UMaine Cooperative Extension
     - Richard Qualey, Intern, University of Maine School of Law

2. Quick Start Recommendations Review:
   - Reopening Borders:
     - Focus on Maine-Canada border. Remove references to interstate borders for initial recommendation.
     - Urgency is amplified now that spring breakup is over and loggers are heading back into the woods. Flow of fiber across the border must not be hindered.
     - Approved – pending final review by subcommittee members.
   - DMR Virtual Public Hearings:
     - Approved – pending final review by subcommittee members.
   - Three Phase Power:
     - Acknowledge that the installation will not be immediate. Additional cost estimates are being researched.
     - Approved – pending final review by subcommittee members.
   - Broadband:
     - Working with the Infrastructure Subcommittee to support their recommendation.
     - Broadband is going to be essential for attracting new businesses and workers into the state. Manufacturing and natural resource-related businesses are in rural areas, which are a priority for expanding broadband access.
     - The urgency for state-wide access to a reliable internet connection has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and moving things online.
     - Need to make sure that broadband internet is affordable so that it will be accessible to everyone.
   - Childcare Facilities, K-12, and Higher Education:
     - This recommendation will also include a note on higher education and their importance for not only the agricultural supply chain, but also in their research activities and workforce training for manufacturing and natural resource industries.
     - Work cross committee with the Education and Workforce Subcommittee and the Healthcare and Support Services Subcommittee.
     - Approved – pending final review by subcommittee members.

3. Discussion on Other Recommendations:
   - PPE Recommendation:
Seeking clarity from the State on best practices, communication, guidelines, etc. The shifting requirements have been difficult on businesses to comply with.

Seeking to have the State provide PPE, testing, etc. to all businesses.

Workplace safety is incredibly important for public health, and for ensuring that people are able to return to work and reinvigorate the economy.

- **Circular Economy:**
  - Early Recommendation: Emphasize the importance of a state procurement commitment. The State can use its purchasing power to procure Maine products for immediate needs.
  - Mid to Long Term Recommendation: Develop a plan for connecting Maine products to Maine consumers. This will be a vast, multi-sector initiative and will also address questions of waste and sustainability with opportunities to co-locate businesses to use resources more efficiently.
  - Have other states/countries made similar initiatives?

4. **Other Considerations:**
   - Consider how to ensure CDFI lenders are included as a distributor of stimulus dollars and other federal assistance.
   - Consider direct financial support to producers.

5. **Plan/Path Forward:**
   - Mary Grace and Richard will compile/update quick start recommendations and circulate to all subcommittee members for final review.
   - All subcommittee members will review circulated quick start recommendations and suggest changes and/or give final approval.
   - Considerations for Friday:
     - Additional recommendations for July 7 deadline.
     - Circular Economy – breaking this down into early, mid-term, and long-term recommendations.
     - Review recommendation requests from the public.

6. **Next Meeting:** Friday, June 26, 2020, 9:15am