MNR Subcommittee Initial Recommendations:

(1) Due to the significant impact on all four sectors (Manufacturing, Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Agriculture) we recommend that childcare centers and educational facilities be safely re-opened for the fall semester. Certainty in this area is essential to ensure that detailed planning within the MNR sectors can proceed effectively.
   a. NOTE: it is important that workers in these fields (teachers, childcare workers, etc.) have a strong voice on these issues to ensure their safety when returning to work.

(2) Stimulus Investments:
   a. Invest in Maine Technology Institute’s (MTI) Maine Technology Asset Fund (MTAF) program and other similar programs,
   b. Expand SBA’s PPP program, and
   c. Direct Cares Act dollars into the MNR sectors through direct stimulus and through existing programs.
      i. NOTE – this list of recommended investments is not exhaustive but highlights some initial key areas.

(3) Focus on the Circular Economy - establish, support, and market the connection of local products to local consumers including food from Maine farms and fisheries and aquaculture, wood products from Maine forests, and manufactured goods from Maine manufacturers. Promote a Maine brand in a sophisticated, outward looking manner, and welcome visitors to explore.

(4) Infrastructure Investments:
   a. Waterfronts – invest in pier and dock improvements and expansions (most notably the addition of three phase power to Maine’s working waterfronts).
   b. Broadband Internet – expand broadband internet capacity and extend the service to rural areas in order to attract talent and provide flexibility for work at home options.
   c. Other infrastructure investment considerations – processing facilities, transportation, and distribution for all agricultural sectors.

(5) Safely re-open the Maine borders to New Brunswick and Quebec along with the interstate borders with NH and other states to facilitate trade and alleviate some of the supply chain issues facing the MNR sectors.

(6) Ensure that the Jay Mill (Pixelle) gets the help they need to rebuild and continue pulp and paper production at that facility.

These recommendations are made under the assumption that a top priority of the Governor’s office will be to devise a comprehensive plan to provide access to PPE, expand COVID-19 testing, develop contact tracing methods, and develop an outbreak response plan for all Maine economic sectors.
Items for further discussion:

- Extend the PTDZ tax credit and designate any business greater than 50 employees as PTDZ qualified.
- Extend expired RGGI rebate to electrical consumers program.
- Provide funding to pay farmer, fishers, loggers, workers for the product of their labor and to reposition and grow their businesses.