



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

August 31, 2015

Senator Susan M. Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Angus S. King
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman Bruce L. Poliquin
426 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Congresswoman Rochelle M. Pingree
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Collins, Senator King, Congressman Poliquin and Congresswoman Pingree:

I am writing you on behalf of the State of Maine and those businesses in Maine that must operate under the strictures of the Clean Water Act to seek your assistance in dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency's ("EPA") severe regulatory overreach. I understand that your offices have been briefed by the EPA regarding that agency's impending decision to develop a Federal Implementation Plan for Maine regarding our State's water quality standards. As I am sure you can appreciate, this action is by the EPA is highly problematic for the State and the businesses located here.

As you know, Maine Department of Environmental Protection has been engaged in a protracted struggle with the EPA regarding the State's water quality standards. The EPA has taken unprecedented action by disapproving a number of Maine's water quality standards, including some that have been on the books since 1985. Much of the EPA's effort is focused on standards that relate to "waters in indian lands." Unfortunately, the EPA appears to be trying to apply a one-size-fits-all model to Maine that completely ignores the applicability of the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act.

You cannot understand my frustration and the frustration of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as we continue to try to exercise our delegated authority under the Clean Water Act. This move to develop a Federal Implementation Plan is just the latest overreach by the EPA. I am now evaluating all of the State's options as they relate to the Clean Water Act and am seriously considering relinquishing some or all of Maine's delegated authority under this Act. Obviously, the State must move in a deliberative fashion due to the disruption this would likely have on Maine-based businesses permitted under this Act. I, however, feel that the EPA is leaving us very little room to maneuver here.

I am at a loss as to what has brought this aggressive regulatory overreach about, but the State desperately needs your help to reign in this agency. I look forward to working with you all on this matter.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER