Office of
The Governor

No. 51 FY 19/20
DATE May 6, 2020

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING
THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, I proclaimed a state of emergency on March 15, 2020 and a renewed state of emergency on April 14, 2020 to authorize the use of emergency powers in order to expand and expedite the State's response to the serious health and safety risks of the highly contagious COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, workers and families, businesses and non-profits, industries and communities across Maine are facing unprecedented economic challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Maine's rural communities, older population, proximity to major U.S. pandemic hot spots, and significant seasonal and tourism-dependent industries magnify those challenges for Maine; and

WHEREAS, engaging business leaders, small business owners, workers, educators, and experts is essential to creating the best recovery plan to put people back to work as quickly as possible and to build a stronger Maine economy in the long-term;

NOW THEREFORE, I, Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, pursuant to authority conferred by Me. Const. Art. V, Pt. 1, §1 and §12, do hereby Order the following.

I. PURPOSE

The Economic Recovery Committee (Committee) is hereby established. The purpose of the Committee is to gather input from experts and industry sector representatives on the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Maine's economy and to recommend specific policy recommendations to help mitigate those impacts. Recommendations should address essential issues such as strengthening Maine's key industries and small businesses; strengthening workforce development; improving opportunities for lower- and middle-income families; expanding economic opportunities for rural communities; and attracting new investments and innovations in key sectors such as business, communication, health care, recreation and education.

II. MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will be comprised of lawmakers, businesses and non-profit leaders, labor and tribal representatives, economic development and education leaders, and other key stakeholders. The Presiding officers and legislative leaders are invited to appoint one member from each of the four legislative caucuses. The Governor shall appoint the remaining members from diverse industries, perspectives, expertise, and communities. The Governor shall appoint the chairs of the Committee. Members and chairs shall serve without compensation and reimbursement.

III. MEETINGS

The Committee may conduct its work in part by using subcommittees. The Committee and its subcommittees shall meet at the call of the chairs. Meetings of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be conducted virtually in a manner accessible to the public. To allow for public input, the Committee shall create a portal to receive public comments. Public notice of the meetings shall be posted online in advance to allow the public reasonable access.

IV. REPORT

The Committee shall convene its first meeting as soon as practicable, deliver a preliminary report not later than July 15, 2020, and deliver a final report by December 1, 2020. The Committee may request extensions on their report dates if the circumstance so advise. The Committee may continue to meet after delivering its final report if requested by the Governor.

V. INFORMED SOURCES

Economists and other pertinent experts may be called upon to inform the Committee. The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and State Economist, among others, may provide expertise and information as requested by the chairs.

VI. EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Order is May 6, 2020.

Janet T. Mills
Governor