

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 5FY 86/86
DATE September 24, 1986

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING A GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE
ON THE KATAHDIN REGION ECONOMY

WHEREAS, the Katahdin region faces a serious loss of jobs in the paper industry due to restructuring, modernization and workforce reductions at the Great Northern Paper Company; and

WHEREAS, the loss of up to 1400 jobs at the company's mills and additional job losses due to the resultant contraction of the regional economy will have a seriously negative effect on the economy of the region; and

WHEREAS, there exists an on-going need to assist the displaced workers and the communities of the region in coping with the job losses and the accompanying economic problems; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable to utilize the Katahdin Regional Development Corporation, incorporated by local officials and business representatives, to spearhead local and regional efforts to develop new and expanded economic opportunities in the Katahdin region; and

WHEREAS, the Katahdin Regional Development Corporation should be the local point of contact for state, substate and federal agencies and programs directed to the Katahdin region in response to the economic problems resulting from the workforce reductions at the Great Northern Paper company;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH E. BRENNAN, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MAINE, do hereby establish a Governor's Task Force on the Katahdin Region Economy, to work with the Katahdin Regional Development Corporation, and other agencies and groups, to assist the Katahdin Region to overcome their economic hardships.

Membership

The Task Force shall be comprised of the Commissioners or Directors of the following departments and offices:

State Development Office
State Planning Office
Department of Labor
Department of Educational and Cultural Services
Department of Conservation
Department of Transportation
Department of Finance
Maine Vocational-Technical Institutes System

The Director of the State Development Office shall serve as Chairman of the Task Force.

Purposes

The purposes of the Task Force shall be:

- 1.) To assist the Katahdin Region develop an Economic Strategy no later than December 31, 1986 to address the economic dislocation in the area. The Plan will have an economic development component as well as an "individual" assistance component. The Plan will define issues, identify area assets and liabilities, suggest responses to problems and opportunities, recommend specific action steps, set priorities, and identify financial and human resources, and institutional responsibilities for implementing the Plan.
- 2.) To act as a formal liaison mechanism between the Katahdin Region and the Brennan Administration.
- 3.) To act as a coordinating mechanism within the Administration so that the full weight of state government may be targeted, coordinated, and brought to bear on the economic situation in the Katahdin Region.
- 4.) To insure, within the constraints of fiscal practicality, that the resources of the State of Maine are available and utilized to the maximum extent possible to support the implementation of the Game Plan.
- 5.) To help identify potential federal resources that could assist the area.
- 6.) To advocate on behalf of the Katahdin Region for the maximum utilization of federal resources.

Staff Support

Each department or office comprising the Task Force shall assign a senior staff to form a working Interagency Support Group in support of Task Force efforts. The Director of the State Development Office shall assign a senior member of the Development Office to serve as lead staff for the Task Force and Chair the Interagency Support Group.

Funding

The Governor will provide, through the Director of the State Development Office and the Commissioner of Labor, the sum of \$75,000 (as made available by the 112th Maine Legislature) to the Katahdin Regional Development Corporation in the form of a Displaced Workers Training, Education and Assistance Block Grant. The guiding principles for use of the money are as follows:

1. To provide assistance to displaced workers in the Katahdin Region.
2. To provide immediate assistance to dislocated workers prior to availability of other resources, "gap assistance".
3. To build long-term training capacity.
4. To preserve local options and flexibility.
5. To leverage limited funds to maximize extent possible.
6. To provide maximum input to resource allocation process by creating a human resource coordinating committee.
7. To vest the KRDC Board with overall policy control and final determination of fund allocation after consultation with the "human resource coordinating committee".

The Katahdin Regional Development Corporation shall have final authority on the use of these funds, except that any capital expenditures must be reviewed and approved by the Director of the State Development Office and the Commissioner of Labor. The Katahdin Regional Development Corporation is required to submit an accounting of the funds to the Governor every six months until all funds have been expended.


JOSEPH E. BRENNAN
Governor