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State of Maine  
 ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
 COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

May 23, 2013

Senator Dawn Hill, Senate Chair  
 Representative Margaret Rotundo, House Chair  
 Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs  
 5 State House Station  
 Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Senator Hill, Representative Rotundo and other Honorable Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee,

The members of the State and Local Government Committee would like to thank you for your diligence to achieve a balanced state budget. In our report to Appropriations and Financial Affairs, our committee requested that you accept our recommendation for restoration of merit and longevity pay for Maine State employees. It has been almost five years that these workers have had their merit and longevity pay frozen. Our committee heard from many employees about their struggles to make ends meet given rising costs of living. In addition, we have heard from the Department of Administrative and Financial Services that we are losing valuable, talented employees to the private sector by not meeting our contractual obligations for merit and longevity pay.

The employees who choose to stay do so because they believe in public service and are proud to work for the State of Maine. It is time to demonstrate our commitment to them by reinstating merit and longevity pay in this biennial budget.

The members of the State and Local Government recognize that very difficult decisions regarding our state budget must be made in the coming weeks. We wish the best as you move forward. Thank you for your attention to our recommendations.

Sincerely,

Sen. Colleen Lachowicz  
 Senate Chair

Sen. Stan Gerzofsky

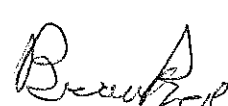

Sen. Ronald Collins

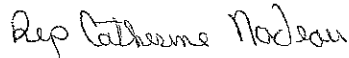
Rep. Anne Graham  
 House Chair

Rep. H. David Cotta

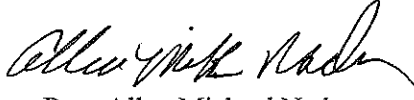
Rep. Andrea Boland

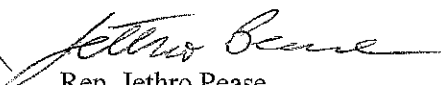
  
Rep. Teresea Hayes

   
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