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STATE OF MAINE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

February 3, 2011

Richard W. Rosen, Senate Chair
Patrick S.A. Flood, House Chair
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Dear Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee Members,

We are writing to recommend that the supplemental budget includes a transfer of \$100,000 from the Solid Waste Management Fund to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in order to continue to fund the activities of the Regional Planning Commissions.

As you know, the State Planning Office received a cut in funding of \$225,000 in the last biennial budget along with a requirement to develop a reorganization plan under Part JJJJ. One of the actions that the State Planning Office took in response to this funding cut was to eliminate all general fund grants to the Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Government. Several members of the State and Local Government Committee are very concerned about the impact of these cuts on municipalities.

Our understanding is that there is money available from the Solid Waste Management Fund in the State Planning Office that could be used to make up for these cuts in grants to the Regional Planning Commissions. We have attached language for this purpose.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Douglas A. Thomas in cursive.

Senator Douglas A. Thomas
Senate Chair

Handwritten signature of H. David Cotta in cursive.

Representative H. David Cotta
House Chair

Handwritten signature of Nancy B. Sullivan in cursive.

Senator Nancy B. Sullivan

Handwritten signature of Andrea M. Boland in cursive.

Representative Andrea M. Boland

Sec ?-1. Transfer; unexpended funds; State Planning Office – SWMF account. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Controller shall transfer \$100,000 by the close of fiscal year 2010-11 from the State Planning Office – SWMF, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the State Planning Office to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund.