



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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The Honorable Craig Hickman  
The Honorable Jessica Fay  
Government Oversight Committee  
c/o Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability  
82 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

June 17, 2024

Dear Government Oversight Committee Members,

I am writing to request that the Government Oversight Committee consider an OPEGA evaluation of the State of Maine's procurement process for goods and services. In light of recent news reports regarding high-profile impacts of procurement outcomes as well as anecdotal conversations shared with me by constituents, I am making this request.

In 2008 an evaluation was done of this process and OPEGA identified several areas for potential improvement. It makes sense to revisit that report to ask how the process has improved outcomes both for State agencies and for potential vendors and bidders. Updating and expanding that evaluation given the significant impact the work that contracts have on Maine people's wellbeing would be time well spent. I encourage the Committee to include any agency or Department with the ability to issue contracts and procure so that the Legislature has a full picture.

As we discuss what a scope of work might look like, I hope that the Committee might consider some of the following:

- Criteria and rationale for no-bid contracts
- Is communication between DAFS and the agencies making the procurement requests sufficient?
- Is there efficient and meaningful feedback provided to unsuccessful bidders when requested?
- Criteria for awarding contracts and how we measure up to conventional best practices
- Do procurement practices differ by Department?
- How were the 2008 OPEGA recommendations addressed?
- Any other questions regarding contracts and procurement that OPEGA identifies

An OPEGA evaluation will allow us a deeper understanding of state procurement and create a positive discussion of how that process might be made to work better for both government and the public. I look forward to discussing this issue with the committee and with OPEGA.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'JF', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rep. Jessica Fay