



Matthew A. Harrington
Asst. Republican Leader
Senator, District 33

THE MAINE SENATE
132nd Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

December 8, 2025

The Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor
State of Maine
1 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0001

Dear Governor Mills:

I write to you on behalf of my constituents in Senate District 33, including the towns of Sanford, Lebanon, Waterboro and Alfred, and as the Assistant Minority Leader in the Maine Senate. I have heard from an increasing number of constituents about the concerns associated with the authorization of no-bid contracts under your Administration. I am writing to request immediate clarification and communication regarding a troubling change in the no-bid contract process that has just been brought to my attention – specifically, the change to the cover page for non-competitive contracts – and to request increased transparency on all no-bid contracts executed under your Administration.

Over the past several months, I have had conversations with numerous constituents who are deeply concerned about the scale and nature of no-bid contracts being awarded. There appears to be a pattern of taxpayer funds being diverted to a wide variety of initiatives, many of which raise serious questions and concerns about whether the no-bid process is being properly used. Specifically, these are a couple of examples that have been reported which are of particular concern to myself and my constituents:

- \$23,500.00 from the Maine Department of Education for a happiness expert;
- \$120,000.00 to the Portland Press Herald and Lewiston Sun Journal to publish state-sponsored articles praising your Administration on the use of federal education dollars;
- \$800,000.00 from the Maine Department of Health & Human Services to house a non-citizen at an Oakland residential care facility beginning in 2022.

As has also been previously reported, the Office of the State Auditor found systemic deficiencies in the state's procurement process. In FY 2024 alone, more than \$2.1 billion in contracts were made under a system the audit described as lacking basic supervisory oversight and controls. The audit went on to find that of 31 "sole-source" (non-competitive) procurement actions reviewed, 16 lacked documentation showing that a "reasonable investigation" had been conducted to explore alternatives, ignoring an intentional safeguard under state law.

Maine taxpayers deserve a full accounting of how their dollars are allocated and spent.

As part of this request, I have included several specific questions I am seeking answers to:

1. Why was the format of the cover page used in the no-bid contract (non-competitive procurement) process changed? It was previously titled the “State of Maine Waiver of Competitive Bidding Request Form” and is now titled the “State of Maine Procurement Justification Form.” Can you provide the current and previous versions of the cover page template that was used under the prior Administration and the current version your Administration is using?
2. Who authorized the change in form? More specifically, who directed that the cover page format be altered and when (date and position) the authorizer did so? According to our information, the change appears to have been implemented in the beginning of 2020.
3. On the revised cover page, why was the box requiring a signature stating “by signing below, I signify as the Governor’s designee there is an emergency that necessitates this non-competitive procurement” removed (or altered)?
4. Can you provide a comprehensive, up-to-date list of all no-bid (non-competitive or sole-sourced) contracts awarded under your Administration, including the State of Maine Procurement Justification Form for each contract?
5. If the Administration cannot, why not?

Taken together, there is a concerning pattern that may suggest a structural problem in how major procurement decisions are being made and approved. The broad and seemingly discretionary use of no-bid contracts for everything from marketing and media outreach to social-policy and climate-change initiatives, and even sensitive public-health expenditures, reflects a very liberal interpretation of when no-bid contracting is appropriate. The result has been some extremely troubling, perhaps even egregious, examples of taxpayer funds being spent without the benefit of competition, transparency, or accountability.

As a confidence-building step for Maine’s citizens, and in recognition of the responsibility we hold to safeguard public funds, I ask that you treat this request with urgency. Transparency in how taxpayer dollars are spent is not an option, it is a duty.

I am requesting notice of receipt from your office as soon as possible. Thank you for your immediate attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,



Matthew Harrington
State Senator