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MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

February 14, 2023

Donald O. Lagace, Jr.
Chair, Board of Trustees
Maine Veterans' Homes
460 Civic Center Drive
Augusta, Maine 04330


Dear Board Chair Lagace,

We are writing to you today in our capacities as the Senate and House Chairs, and on behalf of our fellow Members, of the Government Oversight Committee of the 131st Maine State Legislature. Concerns about the financial management and accounting practices of the organization have been brought to the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) by a former Maine Veterans' Homes employee. We take these concerns seriously, given the critical services that Maine Veterans' Homes is charged with providing to our veterans and their families, and also in light of the \$3.5 million the Legislature appropriated for the organization last year via PL 2021, c. 528.

The Government Oversight Committee has been informed that the former employee raised these concerns previously to the Maine Veterans' Homes Board of Trustees directly. We further understand, based on a letter from the Board's counsel to the former employee's counsel, dated November 15, 2022, that upon receiving notice of these concerns, the Board intended to initiate an investigation. We ask that the status and any results of this investigation be shared with Peter Schleck, the Director of OPEGA, as the Committee has directed OPEGA to begin a preliminary inquiry, accordingly. Should you have any questions or concerns about this request, please do not hesitate to contact us or Director Schleck at (207) 287-1901 or peter.schleck@legislature.maine.gov.

We welcome your prompt response to this important and urgent matter. In that vein, please respond no later than Friday, February 24, 2023. We would also appreciate your sharing a copy of this letter with the other members of the Board. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair


Jessica L. Fay
House Chair