



STATE OF MAINE
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI
GOVERNOR

March 16, 2010

Land Use Regulation Commission Members
Department of Conservation
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0022

Dear Commission Members:

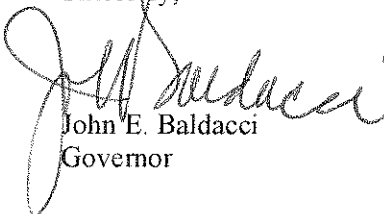
By this letter, I approve the Land Use Regulation Commission's revised Comprehensive Land Use Plan that you adopted unanimously on March 3, 2010. The revised Plan provides a balanced, fair and flexible approach for promoting orderly growth and development in the 10.4 million acres of the jurisdiction for the next decade. I recognize that it is the result of 5 years of extensive public and stakeholder involvement and that it reflects the input from landowners, residents, various recreation and conservation organizations and the general public.

In approving this Plan, I take special notice that one of the most important and overarching goals of the revised Plan is to update LURC's role regarding economic activity in the jurisdiction and to support economic development in appropriate locations. I also recognize your commitment to inclusive, collaborative stakeholder processes to find solutions that work for landowners and residents of the jurisdiction while protecting the public interests in this extraordinary area. It is important to continue to provide every opportunity for residents and landowners within the LURC jurisdiction to meaningfully shape new policies as they are developed and implemented.

In the revised Plan, you mention that considerable opportunities may exist for non-regulatory, voluntary approaches that provide landowners with flexibility and incentives to protect the principal values of the jurisdiction while achieving reasonable economic returns. You have assured me that you will actively explore collaborative processes as they may offer a path forward which not only maintains but improves landowners' value while enhancing the protection of public interests. These assurances are integral to my approval of this revised Plan.

LURC's important role in the planning and zoning of this unique and vital part of our state is critical to Maine's future. Working forests, healthy and vibrant communities, and abundant recreational and natural resources are part of our heritage and must be safeguarded and enhanced for our generation as well as our children and grandchildren. I urge you to continue your hard work on behalf of the great state of Maine.

Sincerely,



John E. Baldacci
Governor



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