



STATE OF MAINE
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF POLICY INNOVATION AND THE FUTURE
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04333-0181

Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan & Budget Proposals May 18, 2021

Senator Lawrence, Representative Berry, and members of the Committee on Utilities and Energy. My name is Hannah Pingree and I am the Director of the Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future. I am here today speak briefly to the Governor's proposed Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, the Governor's bond proposal, and several of the Governor's proposed Part 2 budget items that are related to this committee's oversight of the implementation of the *Maine Won't Wait* Four Year Climate Action Plan.

The Governor unveiled her Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan just two weeks ago, her Administration's proposal to invest more than \$1 billion in discretionary federal relief funds allocated to Maine under the American Rescue Plan Act, meant to make historic investments in recovery and longstanding economic challenges to achieve three goals: 1) immediate economic recovery from the pandemic; 2) long-term economic growth for Maine; and 3) infrastructure revitalization. The plan draws heavily on recommendations from the [Governor's Economic Recovery Committee](#) and the [State's 10-Year Economic Development Strategy](#), as well as components of the State Climate Plan, transforming these best-made plans into real action to improve the lives of our people and to strengthen the economy. We look forward to collaboration with the Legislature as we further refine the specifics of these initiatives to meet these goals.

The Governor also presented a [bond proposal](#) aimed at rebuilding Maine's transportation system and conserving lands and waters. The proposal dedicates \$100 million to maintain and upgrade Maine's roads and bridges and multi-modal systems through the Maine Department of Transportation and it also allocates \$40 million over four years to conserve lands and waters for Maine people through the Land for Maine's Future Program. This bond will be heard in the Appropriations Committee this week.

And, most recently, Governor Mills unveiled the "Part 2" budget for the FY22-23 biennium, a proposal that makes a historic investment in Maine public schools and meets the State's obligation to pay 55 percent of the cost of K-12 education for the first time in Maine's history. The proposal includes a host of additional bipartisan priorities, such as initiatives to improve the health of Maine people; relief for Maine people most adversely impacted by the pandemic or overburdened by rising property taxes; enhanced revenue sharing with municipalities; PFAS remediation; and infrastructure upgrades; and it also adds money to the state Stabilization Funds. The proposal, which is balanced and does not raise taxes, also leaves approximately \$23 million in funding on the table for use at law makers discretion.

Specifically, in these three proposals, there are significant investments in the urgent climate actions highlighted in the Climate Action Plan.

Attached you will find an overview of those items. I'll highlight some key proposals related to strategies of the plan, and the outcomes we hope to achieve with each investment.

Director of the Governor's Energy Office Dan Burgess will provide more detail on several of the items at the Governor's Energy Office.

We'd also be happy to answer any of your questions today, or at another time.