



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

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PATRICK C. WOODCOCK
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

October 22, 2015

Ms. Jessica Damon
Project Manager
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

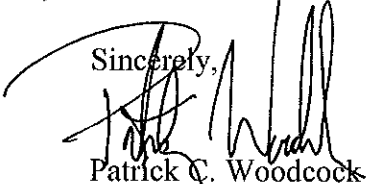
Dear Ms. Damon,

The Number Nine Wind Farm application includes a component, Exhibit 28-D of the Application, which would provide funding to assist Aroostook County residents to lower their heating bills. The Energy Office is supportive of this program and would like this support included in the record along with other state agencies that will be reviewing and providing important input on the application and most importantly the local population who will be most affected by the project.

The program includes total funding of \$2 million to assist with the upfront costs of purchasing modern heating systems including wood pellet systems and heat pumps as well as insulation and other energy efficiency investments for Aroostook County residents. The program summary includes leveraging existing funding provided through Efficiency Maine Trust's Home Energy Savings Program (HESP), and would augment funding for the residents of Aroostook County.

Aroostook County residents have comparatively high heating costs. While this is a function of the cold temperatures it also is the result of older housing stock. These funds would target what has been a challenge for the region by using an existing program as a vehicle. While wind has certainly contributed to construction activity in the state, the energy benefits of these projects to Maine residents has been limited. The program, and the project as proposed with this component, would help address one of Maine's most serious energy challenges – our home heating costs in Aroostook County.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Patrick C. Woodcock
Director
Governor's Energy Office