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Saco River Corridor Commission
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TO: Senator Diamond, Representative Cain and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

FROM: Dennis J. Finn, Executive Director, Saco River Corridor Commission (SRCC)

The Saco River Corridor Commission has two critical program elements that are complimentary. By legislative mandate the SRCC administers a land use regulatory program within a Corridor that is between 500 and 1000 horizontal feet in depth along the Saco, Ossipee and Little Ossipee Rivers. These rivers flow through twenty towns and the Corridor covers 160 river miles. Strict land use standards are used to protect the water quality and land based resource integrity over an area twice the extent of the States Shoreland Zone. A water quality monitoring program run primarily by volunteers examines and assesses the water quality at 35 sites along these rivers to ensure that the health and quality of the water is preserved.

The SRCC's General Fund appropriation is \$48,719. This money supports the regulatory program and, in part, the water quality monitoring program. In total, the State benefits from work performed by the equivalent of 3 professional staff people and 43 volunteers over the course of the year.

Highlights of the program include:

- land use regulatory program covering 160 river miles;
- water quality monitoring program covering 35 sites with over 2500 water quality data parameters sampled;
- work with conservation groups, school groups and municipalities on natural resource and water quality issues;
- first line of defense for the Saco River which functions as a primary drinking water reservoir for Saco, Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, Kennebunk and portions of Scarborough.