



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

July 18, 2016

The Hon. Jeff McCabe  
House Majority Leader  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear House Majority Leader McCabe,

I have been monitoring the situation with private roads in Somerset County that were washed out or damaged during the rainfall on June 28. While I understand the importance of these roads to the region, the options under state law to repair and maintain private roads are very limited.

The Maine Department of Environment Protection, Maine Forest Service and Land Use Planning Commission have been on site to determine which private roads need repairs and to provide guidance. In addition, we can make engineers and other staff from the Maine Department of Transportation available to provide expertise and advice to make sure the roads are properly re-constructed and will be able withstand such heavy rainfalls or other natural occurrences.

However, as you well know, the Executive Branch does not have the authority to appropriate money. Only the Legislature can do that.

Certainly, I would be willing to call the Legislature back to fund an emergency bill to provide financial assistance and relief for the infrastructure and people of Somerset County. But Speaker of the House Mark Eves has already proclaimed loudly and publicly that if I call back the Legislature, he will immediately adjourn the emergency session. He has made it very clear he is not interested in properly funding bills that benefit the Maine people, especially if the Governor asks him to do so.

Therefore, I suggest you contact the Speaker and ask him to call back the Legislature so an emergency bill to fund assistance for the people of Somerset County can be properly and legally appropriated.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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cc: Sen. Rod Whitemore  
Rep. Larry Dunphy  
Comm. Philip Roy, Jr.  
Comm. Robert Dunphy  
Comm. Dean Cray  
Comm. Newal Graf  
Comm. Lloyd Trafton