DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES 78 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, ME 04333-0078

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MEMORANDUM

- TO: Governor Paul R. LePage Members, Legislative Council Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs Members, Joint Standing Committee on Taxation
- **FROM:** H. Sawin Millett Jr., Commissioner Department of Administrative & Financial Services
- **DATE:** December 11, 2013
- **SUBJ:** Revenues November

November General Fund revenues were over budget by 10.2 million or 4.7%. Year-to-date FY14 General Fund revenues are 28.1 million over budget (+2.6%). Compared to the first five months of last fiscal year, revenues are up 4.0% (+43.1 million). Please note that the Controller's November revenue report does not reflect the December 1^{st} revenue forecast update by the Revenue Forecasting Committee (RFC). The December report will be based on the new revenue forecast.

Sales & use tax receipts were slightly over budget for the month by \$0.4 million and are now over budget for the fiscal year by \$13 million (+3.4%). November revenues (October sales) reflect the first month of the temporary increase in the general and meals & lodging tax rates. Year-over-year taxable sales growth for the three month period ending in October averaged 6.4%, remaining well above the current budget forecast of 3-3.5% growth. As noted in the attached taxable sales report, auto/transportation and building supply establishments are the drivers of the recent increase in consumer sales, although the other retail category continues to show solid growth as well.

Individual income taxes were over budget in November by \$11.8 million, bringing the year-todate positive variance to \$17 million (+3.3%). Stronger than projected withholding was the primary cause of the monthly surplus. Withholding was \$10.4 million over for the month and is now \$1.1 million over budget for the fiscal year. Corporate income tax receipts posted a positive variance in November; over budget by \$5.1 million. Corporate income tax revenues are now \$2 million over budget for the fiscal year. While refunds are currently less than projected through November, there are a number of corporations that have filed refund requests on their 2012 tax returns that are currently under review. The recent revenue forecast by the RFC assumes most of these refunds will be issued later this fiscal year.

Sales & Use Taxes

Revenue was \$380,218 over budget for the month and \$13 million (+3.4%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$37 million (+10.2%) over fiscal year 2013.

Taxable Sales

Total taxable sales for the month of October (November revenue) were up 5.3% from October 2012. The annual rate of change was 3.4%. Building supply sales were up 9.7% for the month and 2.4% for the year ending in October. Sales of taxable items in food stores were up 4.0% for the month and 1.2% for the year. General merchandise sales (primarily sales of goods sold in large department and discount stores) were up 1.9% for the month and 0.6% for the year. Sales in other retail stores such as jewelry, drug, sporting goods, book, antique, pet, photo, toy, and craft stores were up 5.4% for the month and 2.1% for the year. Auto/transportation sector sales were up 7.9% for the month and 7.0% for the year. Sales of meals and other prepared foods were up 2.7% for the month and 3.1% for the year. Lodging sales were up 3.6% for the month and 5.8% for the year. Business operating sales (primarily use tax paid by businesses) were up 4.6% for the month and 4.5% for the year.

Service Provider Tax

Revenue was \$67,718 under budget for the month and \$1.3 million (-7.8%) under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Individual Income Tax

Revenue was \$11.8 million over budget for the month and \$17 million (+3.3%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date withholding payments were 2.7% under fiscal year 2013. Estimated payments were up 16.1% and final payments were up 17.8% fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$21.6 million (-3.9%) under fiscal year 2013.

Corporate Income Tax

Revenue was \$5.1 million over budget for the month and \$2 million (+4.4%) over budget fiscal year-to-date. Estimated payments were up 2.4% and final payments were down 17.5% fiscal year-to-date. Fiscal year-to-date revenue was \$9.9 million (+26.1%) over fiscal year 2013.

Cigarette & Tobacco Taxes

Cigarette and tobacco products tax revenue was \$626,659 over budget for the month and \$2.7 million (+4.5%) over budget fiscal year-to-date.

Insurance Companies Taxes

The Insurance Companies Taxes were \$2.5 million under budget for the month and \$182,534 under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Estate Tax

The estate tax was \$137,530 over budget for the month and \$2.6 million under budget fiscal year-to-date.

Transfers for Tax Relief Programs

Refunds for the Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement (BETR) and Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE) were over budget in November by \$3.8 million. Year-to-date the tax relief programs are over budget by \$3 million (13.0%).

Municipal Revenue Sharing

Revenue sharing was \$0.2 million under budget for the month and is now \$1.3 million over budget for the fiscal year.

Lottery

Lottery Revenues were under budget for the month by \$1 million or 18%. Year-to-date lottery receipts are \$1.7 million under budget.

Other Revenues

Other Revenues were over budget by \$0.250 million for the month, a variance of 6.8%.

Highway Fund

Motor fuel tax receipts exceeded budget in November by \$1.8 million. The Highway Fund as a whole was also over budget for the month by \$1.6 million. Compared to the same five month period last fiscal year motor fuel excise tax receipts are up 2.1%.

National Economy

Positive economic reports on third quarter GDP growth and November labor market conditions are providing some hope that momentum is building for stronger economic growth in 2014. The first signal of increased confidence in future economic growth may come next week when the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) of the Federal Reserve meets. It's possible that the FOMC may view the recent data as a sign that the economy has entered a period of sustained economic growth at or above potential GDP growth and will begin to taper its asset-purchase program. Economists will be watching carefully to see how markets react to a scaling back of the purchase program should the Fed take such action.

Maine Economy

The RFC met on November 21st to review its May revenue forecast and to update the forecast for the new economic forecast from the CEFC and tax data received since May. The committee increased General Fund revenue for the FY14/15 biennium by \$20.6 million and by \$8.8 million for the FY16/17 biennium. The relatively minor adjustments to the previous forecast reflect stronger sales and individual income tax receipts that will be offset by weaker corporate income tax revenue.

The RFC is expecting revenue growth to slow over the remaining months of FY14 based on consumer spending softening during the holiday season, household income declining following the shifting of income into tax year 2012 and corporate refunds for the 2012 tax year increasing. This weaker revenue growth during the second half of FY14 is consistent with the assumptions made by other states that are concerned that much of the FY13 surplus was related to one-time events.

HSM:mja

Attachments

cc: John McGough Jonathan Nass Grant Pennoyer Maureen Dawson Marc Cyr David Boulter Amanda Rector Jim Breece Jerome Gerard Melissa Gott Terry Brann

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2013 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2014
Sales and Use Tax	89,818,623	89,438,405	380,218	0.4%	399,761,401	386,761,390	13,000,011	3.4%	1,098,475,270
Service Provider Tax	4,064,855	4,132,573	(67,718)	(1.6%)	15,955,797	17,297,906	(1,342,110)	(7.8%)	50,591,819
Individual Income Tax	112,469,893	100,702,708	11,767,185	11.7%	529,023,334	511,998,478	17,024,856	3.3%	1,369,627,772
Corporate Income Tax	3,220,858	(1,898,692)	5,119,550	269.6%	47,943,192	45,912,157	2,031,035	4.4%	180,143,079
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	12,271,645	11,644,986	626,659	5.4%	62,624,721	59,927,283	2,697,438	4.5%	135,900,000
Insurance Companies Tax	2,786,219	5,249,457	(2,463,238)	(46.9%)	12,921,913	13,104,447	(182,534)	(1.4%)	80,715,000
Estate Tax	2,246,895	2,109,365	137,530	6.5%	5,938,090	8,569,700	(2,631,610)	(30.7%)	27,553,982
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	1,460,165	1,806,866	(346,701)	(19.2%)	9,522,402	10,356,041	(833,639)	(8.0%)	24,402,335
Income from Investments	15,709	77	15,632	20301.4%	124,440	66,278	58,162	87.8%	77,710
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,398,003	5,360,586	(962,583)	(18.0%)	21,873,430	23,586,543	(1,713,113)	(7.3%)	55,750,000
Transfers for Tax Relief Programs	(11,238,882)	(7,465,986)	(3,772,896)	(50.5%)	(25,920,702)	(22,935,679)	(2,985,023)	(13.0%)	(60,780,498)
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(4,880,459)	(5,047,335)	166,876	3.3%	(27,007,151)	(25,681,004)	(1,326,147)	(5.2%)	(64,893,005)
Other Taxes and Fees	6,581,709	7,269,073	(687,364)	(9.5%)	51,043,281	49,505,723	1,537,558	3.1%	127,403,005
Other Revenues	3,957,595	3,707,203	250,392	6.8%	3,824,432	1,087,699	2,736,733	251.6%	36,809,186
Total Collected	227,172,831	217,009,286	10,163,545	4.7%	1,107,628,578	1,079,556,962	28,071,616	2.6%	3,061,775,655

NOTES: (1) Included in the above is \$4,880,459 for the month and \$27,007,151 year-to-date, that was set aside for Revenue Sharing with cities and towns.

(2) Figures reflect estimates of the Maine State Revenue Forecasting Committee approved in May 2013.

(3) This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2013 and 2012 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and 2013 Comparison to Prior Year

	Month				Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Sales and Use Tax	89,818,623	78,364,108	11,454,515	14.6%	399,761,401	362,757,860	37,003,541	10.2%		
Service Provider Tax	4,064,855	4,055,516	9,340	0.2%	15,955,797	16,693,437	(737,640)	(4.4%)		
Individual Income Tax	112,469,893	121,283,232	(8,813,340)	(7.3%)	529,023,334	550,633,746	(21,610,413)	(3.9%)		
Corporate Income Tax	3,220,858	(3,193,761)	6,414,620	200.8%	47,943,192	38,025,864	9,917,329	26.1%		
Cigarette and Tobacco Tax	12,271,645	11,298,417	973,228	8.6%	62,624,721	61,559,937	1,064,785	1.7%		
Insurance Companies Tax	2,786,219	4,909,846	(2,123,627)	(43.3%)	12,921,913	14,314,055	(1,392,142)	(9.7%)		
Estate Tax	2,246,895	16,261,084	(14,014,189)	(86.2%)	5,938,090	25,551,633	(19,613,543)	(76.8%)		
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	1,460,165	1,404,210	55,955	4.0%	9,522,402	9,917,046	(394,644)	(4.0%)		
Income from Investments	15,709	11,689	4,021	34.4%	124,440	70,246	54,194	77.1%		
Transfer from Lottery Commission	4,398,003	4,082,870	315,133	7.7%	21,873,430	21,029,044	844,386	4.0%		
Transfers for Tax Relief Programs	(11,238,882)	(11,806,379)	567,497	4.8%	(25,920,702)	(56,975,978)	31,055,275	54.5%		
Transfer to Municipal Revenue Sharing	(4,880,459)	(7,238,306)	2,357,847	32.6%	(27,007,151)	(39,032,736)	12,025,585	30.8%		
Other Taxes and Fees	6,581,709	10,283,263	(3,701,555)	(36.0%)	51,043,281	59,508,001	(8,464,720)	(14.2%)		
Other Revenues	3,957,595	4,834,192	(876,597)	(18.1%)	3,824,432	472,218	3,352,214	709.9%		
Total Collected	227,172,831	234,549,981	(7,377,151)	(3.1%)	1,107,628,578	1,064,524,371	43,104,207	4.0%		

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2013 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2014
Detail of Other Taxes & Fees									
0100s All Others	1,222,536	682,884	539,652	79.0%	15,395,223	15,339,169	56,054	0.4%	26,487,214
0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax	22,581	21,875	706	3.2%	119,679	116,774	2,905	2.5%	254,932
0400s Alcohol Excise Tax	1,332,547	1,420,773	(88,226)	(6.2%)	8,375,025	7,027,227	1,347,798	19.2%	17,099,326
0700s Corporation Taxes	192,283	141,450	50,833	35.9%	1,255,238	1,029,625	225,613	21.9%	7,847,099
0800s Public Utilities	-	-	-	-	(1,169,972)	-	(1,169,972)	-	10,000,000
1000s Banking Taxes	1,303,700	1,945,992	(642,292)	(33.0%)	10,124,850	9,729,960	394,890	4.1%	23,851,990
1100s Alcoholic Beverages	421,176	393,726	27,450	7.0%	2,229,851	1,838,315	391,536	21.3%	4,547,838
1200s Amusements Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-
1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel	508,494	697,299	(188,805)	(27.1%)	3,794,383	4,042,741	(248,358)	(6.1%)	8,923,813
1400s Business Taxes	324,172	660,071	(335,899)	(50.9%)	2,076,118	2,214,993	(138,875)	(6.3%)	7,408,553
1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses	148,260	285,299	(137,039)	(48.0%)	1,602,275	1,718,749	(116,474)	(6.8%)	4,411,202
1700s Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	1,055,380	955,374	100,006	10.5%	7,076,603	6,275,508	801,095	12.8%	16,188,579
1900s Other Licenses	50,580	64,330	(13,750)	(21.4%)	164,009	172,662	(8,653)	(5.0%)	382,459
Total Other Taxes & Fees	6,581,709	7,269,073	(687,364)	(9.5%)	51,043,281	49,505,723	1,537,558	3.1%	127,403,005
Detail of Other Revenues									
2200s Federal Revenues	28,792	29,499	(707)	(2.4%)	184,770	147,498	37,272	25.3%	354,000
2300s County Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns	4,279	22,712	(18,433)	(81.2%)	154,745	113,560	41,185	36.3%	272,545
2500s Revenues from Private Sources	178,662	105,961	72,701	68.6%	732,484	551,346	181,138	32.9%	9,764,696
2600s Current Service Charges	2,311,538	2,243,020	68,518	3.1%	11,295,691	10,413,005	882,686	8.5%	23,639,227
2700s Transfers from Other Funds	1,432,768	1,306,011	126,757	9.7%	(8,577,355)	(10,158,578)	1,581,223	15.6%	2,708,118
2800s Sales of Property & Equipment	1,556	-	1,556	-	34,096	20,868	13,228	63.4%	70,600
Total Other Revenues	3,957,595	3,707,203	250,392	6.8%	3,824,432	1,087,699	2,736,733	251.6%	36,809,186

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

Undedicated Revenues - General Fund For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2013 and 2012 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and 2013 Comparison to Prior Year

		Mon	th		Year to Date				
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	
Detail of Other Taxes & Fees									
0100s All Others	1,222,536	729,425	493,111	67.6%	15,395,223	13,140,086	2,255,137	17.2%	
0300s Aeronautical Gas Tax	22,581	22,831	(250)	(1.1%)	119,679	118,899	780	0.7%	
0400s Alcohol Excise Tax	1,332,547	1,300,663	31,884	2.5%	8,375,025	8,288,014	87,011	1.0%	
0700s Corporation Taxes	192,283	167,249	25,035	15.0%	1,255,238	1,242,530	12,708	1.0%	
0800s Public Utilities	-	-	-	-	(1,169,972)	(493,469)	(676,503)	(137.1%)	
1000s Banking Taxes	1,303,700	1,965,650	(661,950)	(33.7%)	10,124,850	9,822,600	302,250	3.1%	
1100s Alcoholic Beverages	421,176	409,586	11,591	2.8%	2,229,851	1,980,307	249,544	12.6%	
1200s Amusements Tax	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
1300s Harness Racing Pari-mutuel	508,494	2,570,454	(2,061,960)	(80.2%)	3,794,383	6,032,194	(2,237,812)	(37.1%)	
1400s Business Taxes	324,172	918,317	(594,145)	(64.7%)	2,076,118	3,795,387	(1,719,269)	(45.3%)	
1500s Motor Vehicle Licenses	148,260	262,900	(114,640)	(43.6%)	1,602,275	1,698,904	(96,629)	(5.7%)	
1700s Inland Fisheries & Wildlife	1,055,380	864,619	190,761	22.1%	7,076,603	6,686,376	390,227	5.8%	
1900s Other Licenses	50,580	1,071,571	(1,020,991)	(95.3%)	164,009	7,196,175	(7,032,166)	(97.7%)	
Total Other Taxes & Fees	6,581,709	10,283,263	(3,701,555)	(36.0%)	51,043,281	59,508,001	(8,464,720)	(14.2%)	
Detail of Other Revenues									
2200s Federal Revenues	28,792	11,229	17,563	156.4%	184,770	133,775	50,995	38.1%	
2300s County Revenues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
2400s Revenues from Cities and Towns	4,279	2,219	2,060	92.9%	154,745	141,676	13,070	9.2%	
2500s Revenues from Private Sources	178,662	114,236	64,426	56.4%	732,484	509,202	223,282	43.8%	
2600s Current Service Charges	2,311,538	3,143,645	(832,107)	(26.5%)	11,295,691	12,219,203	(923,512)	(7.6%)	
2700s Transfers from Other Funds	1,432,768	1,551,757	(118,989)	(7.7%)	(8,577,355)	(12,594,647)	4,017,292	31.9%	
2800s Sales of Property & Equipment	1,556	11,106	(9,550)	(86.0%)	34,096	63,008	(28,912)	(45.9%)	
Total Other Revenues	3,957,595	4,834,192	(876,597)	(18.1%)	3,824,432	472,218	3,352,214	709.9%	

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change

Undedicated Revenues - Highway Fund For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2013 For the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014 Comparison to Budget

	Month								
	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Actual	Budget	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Total Budgeted Fiscal Year Ending 6-30-2014
Fuel Taxes	19,571,817	17,743,068	1,828,749	10.3%	77,690,858	74,484,525	3,206,333	4.3%	210,011,240
Motor Vehicle Registration & Fees	6,481,973	6,829,081	(347,109)	(5.1%)	35,541,962	34,298,812	1,243,150	3.6%	83,362,917
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	184,833	185,050	(217)	(0.1%)	1,025,691	1,360,900	(335,209)	(24.6%)	2,982,500
Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	97,118	114,497	(17,379)	(15.2%)	516,155	588,496	(72,341)	(12.3%)	1,313,165
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	80,127	90,384	(10,257)	(11.3%)	440,129	462,950	(22,821)	(4.9%)	1,039,868
Earnings on Investments	5,048	10,204	(5,156)	(50.5%)	27,428	51,020	(23,592)	(46.2%)	122,453
All Other	3,302,393	3,122,334	180,059	5.8%	5,227,456	5,281,697	(54,241)	(1.0%)	9,025,866
Total Collected	29,723,309	28,094,618	1,628,691	5.8%	120,469,679	116,528,400	3,941,279	3.4%	307,858,009

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

Undedicated Revenues - Highway Fund For the Fifth Month Ended November 30, 2013 and 2012 For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2014 and 2013 Comparison to Prior Year

		Mont	th		Year to Date					
	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)	Current Year	Prior Year	Variance Over/(Under)	Percent Over/(Under)		
Fuel Taxes	19,571,817	18,132,745	1,439,072	7.9%	77,690,858	76,083,916	1,606,942	2.1%		
Motor Vehicle Registration & Fees	6,481,973	6,982,090	(500,117)	(7.2%)	35,541,962	40,641,385	(5,099,424)	(12.5%)		
Motor Vehicle Inspection Fees	184,833	185,748	(915)	(0.5%)	1,025,691	1,338,741	(313,050)	(23.4%)		
Miscellaneous Taxes & Fees	97,118	105,385	(8,267)	(7.8%)	516,155	564,007	(47,852)	(8.5%)		
Fines, Forfeits & Penalties	80,127	79,158	969	1.2%	440,129	459,398	(19,269)	(4.2%)		
Earnings on Investments	5,048	6,586	(1,537)	(23.3%)	27,428	28,448	(1,021)	(3.6%)		
All Other	3,302,393	2,903,647	398,745	13.7%	5,227,456	5,005,037	222,419	4.4%		
Total Collected	29,723,309	28,395,358	1,327,950	4.7%	120,469,679	124,120,932	(3,651,253)	(2.9%)		

NOTE: This report has been prepared from preliminary month end figures and is subject to change.

Maine Revenue Services Taxable Sales by Sector In Thousands of Dollars

	Oct. '13	% Ch.	Oct. '12	% Ch.	Oct. ' 11	Average Last 3 Mos. Vs. Last Yr. % Change	Moving Total Last 12 Mos. Vs. Prior % Change	YTD Growth CY'13 vs. '12 Thru. Oct. % Change
Building Supply	\$209,342.1	9.7%	\$190,828.1	-3.0%	\$196,737.6	11.6%	2.4%	6.3%
Food Store	\$135,158.8	4.0%	\$129,924.8	4.1%	\$124,781.0	2.6%	1.2%	1.4%
General Merchandise	\$246,655.0	1.9%	\$242,064.8	-1.2%	\$244,916.4	0.6%	0.6%	1.1%
Other Retail	\$166,185.9	5.4%	\$157,617.6	-0.1%	\$157,850.4	5.6%	2.1%	3.6%
Auto/Transportation	\$318,751.2	7.9%	\$295,433.6	1.3%	\$291,638.5	10.5%	7.0%	8.1%
Restaurant	\$183,399.9	2.7%	\$178,553.1	3.0%	\$173,372.8	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%
Lodging	\$56,536.7	3.6%	\$54,565.0	9.3%	\$49,908.5	7.6%	5.8%	6.1%
Consumer Sales	\$1,316,029.6	5.4%	\$1,248,987.0	0.8%	\$1,239,205.2	6.0%	3.2%	4.4%
Business Operating	\$164,202.3	4.6%	\$156,945.4	4.1%	\$150,741.7	9.7%	4.5%	5.9%
Total	\$1,480,231.9	5.3%	\$1,405,932.4	1.2%	\$1,389,946.9	6.4%	3.4%	4.6%