



Serving the Municipalities of Southwestern Maine For Over 50 years

December 19, 2018

James Bennett
City Manager
City of Biddeford
PO Box 586
Biddeford, ME 04005

Dear Jim;

The Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) would like to thank you for your dues payment of last year. Your dues payments are the means for SMPDC to provide quality services to your community at an affordable cost, match our state and federal contracts, provide access to federal and state grant programs and work on issues of regional concern. They are the foundation for the technical assistance that we are able to provide to all the cities and municipalities in the region.

The following page highlights the work undertaken by SMPDC in your community over the past year or so. We have also included a list of the benefits that all towns receive in addition to more specialized services. In many cases, the savings in cooperative purchasing savings alone exceed the amount of dues requested.

The value of these services are also greatly increased when one considers the state and federal dollars we have brought into the region through the writing of grants and assisting other non-profits and towns. For instance in the last year alone, SMPDC received and recapitalized a regional Brownfields Program (\$600,000 grant); received a \$29k grant to study dredging in the region, assisted on a \$220,000 grant to develop strategies to mitigate traffic impacts of the Naval Shipyard; and provided support to many communities on the impacts of climate change on their infrastructure. Our work on Brownfields redevelopment and through our EDA Revolving Loan program throughout the region has leveraged over 100 million dollars in private investment, created over 500 jobs and 350 units of new and affordable housing. It is important to note that while some of these projects may take place in a certain community or communities, they benefit our entire region and far surpass the amount of money we request in dues. Furthermore, with our federal Economic Development District status, we can provide additional funds and project money to support economic development activities in the region.

Because of increased costs to the organization, combined with decreasing funds from state and federal partners, last year SMPDC began a two-year program to increase dues by 20% over a two-year period. To that end, SMPDC is requesting a second year increase of 10% dues from the previous year. Based on population and number of communities, our dues structure is still far less than other similar regional planning agencies across the state. These dues are for the upcoming fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019.

Your dues amount for 2019 will be \$ 8,928.00. This amount is based on a method that accounts for both valuation and population of the community. Please feel free to give me a call (571-7065) to discuss these services and how your dues money is used.

We are grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,


Paul Schumacher, Executive Director