

# 2025 UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSIONERS



A VIRTUAL EVENT  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025**  
**9:00 AM TO 10:30 AM**



This meeting is being recorded. We will notify you when the video is available for on demand viewing on our website: [www.mainechamber.org](http://www.mainechamber.org).



All participants are in “listen only” mode.



Type questions using the Q&A feature. Time permitting we will answer questions at the end of the session.



We will also use the Q&A feature to share useful links and other materials



If you lose your zoom connection, try the following:

- Close zoom and reconnect with the meeting link
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# Maine's Forest Bioproducts Advanced Manufacturing Tech Hub



*Changing how the world builds homes, packages products, and more while writing the next great chapter of Maine's storied forest products industry*

- **Deploying \$23+ million for scaling Maine-based technologies, firms, and talent**
- **70+ member public-private consortium backed by investors with more than \$4.25 billion in assets**
- **Led by Maine Technology Institute, with GOPIF & DECD**



**First 100% bio-based 3D-printed home**

Visit <http://MaineTechHub.us>



# Infrastructure Rebuilding & Resilience Commission

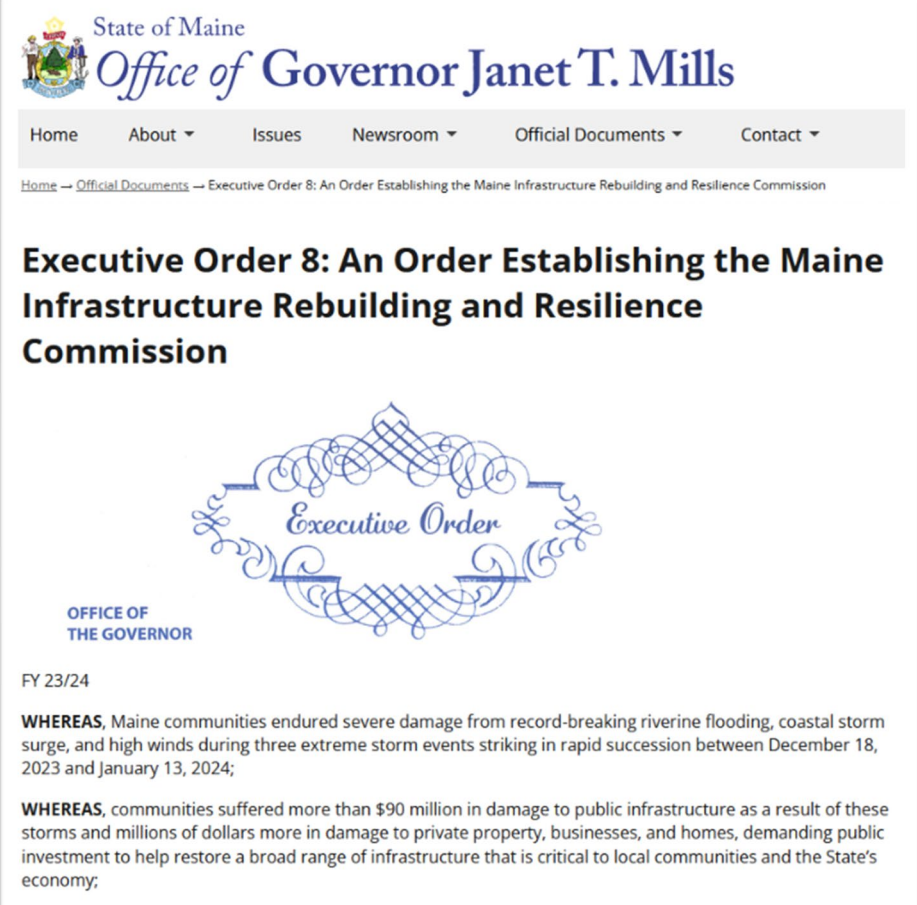
## Focus areas:

- Strengthen infrastructure resilience at the state, regional, and local levels
- Improvements to disaster preparation, recovery, and response
- Increase resilience of energy and utility systems

## Deliverables:

Infrastructure plan and recommendations for Governor and Legislature

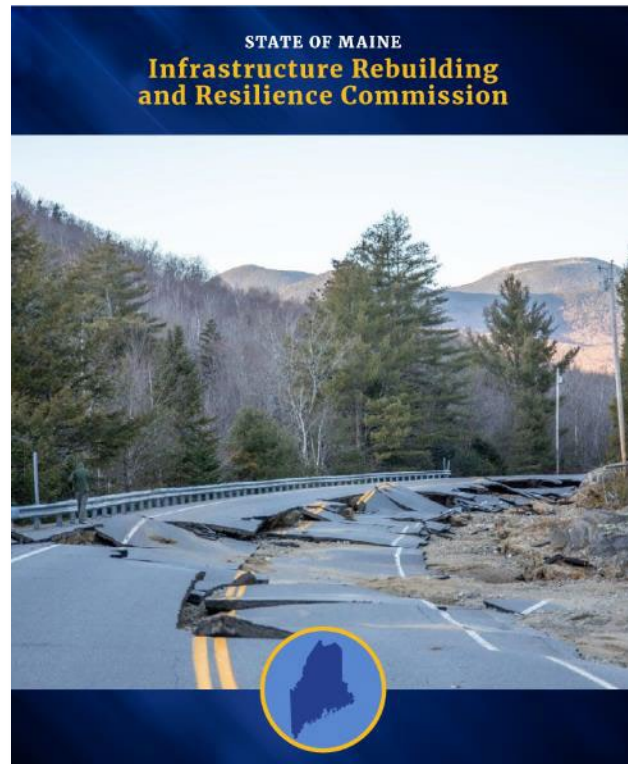
- Nov 15, 2024 - Interim report and recommendations
- May 15, 2025 - Final report



The screenshot shows the official website of the State of Maine, Office of Governor Janet T. Mills. The page is titled "Executive Order 8: An Order Establishing the Maine Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission". The page includes a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Issues, Newsroom, Official Documents, and Contact. Below the navigation menu, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home → Official Documents → Executive Order 8: An Order Establishing the Maine Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission. The main heading of the page is "Executive Order 8: An Order Establishing the Maine Infrastructure Rebuilding and Resilience Commission". Below the heading is a decorative seal with the words "Executive Order" in the center. Underneath the seal, it says "OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR". The date "FY 23/24" is displayed. The text of the executive order begins with "WHEREAS, Maine communities endured severe damage from record-breaking riverine flooding, coastal storm surge, and high winds during three extreme storm events striking in rapid succession between December 18, 2023 and January 13, 2024;". The text continues with "WHEREAS, communities suffered more than \$90 million in damage to public infrastructure as a result of these storms and millions of dollars more in damage to private property, businesses, and homes, demanding public investment to help restore a broad range of infrastructure that is critical to local communities and the State's economy;".



# Building a More Resilient Maine



- Immediate Actions to Improve Storm Response
- Cementing the Foundation for Resilience
- Integrating Resilience for the Long-term





# LD 1: An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes, and Infrastructure

## Home Resiliency Program at the Bureau of Insurance

\$15 million

- Grant program for homeowners to strengthen primary residences against severe weather damage and reduce insurance losses (\$15m)
  - For example, roof strengthening, basement floodproofing.

**Funding Note:** LD 1 is funded by existing Other Special Revenues and federal funding. General Funds are not required.

## Maine Emergency Management Agency

\$12 million

- One-time funding for Disaster Recovery Fund as match for FEMA recovery funds (\$10m)
- Establish a Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (\$800k + 2yr contract/grant specialist)
- Update communications technology and early warning systems (\$750k + 2yr communications system manager)

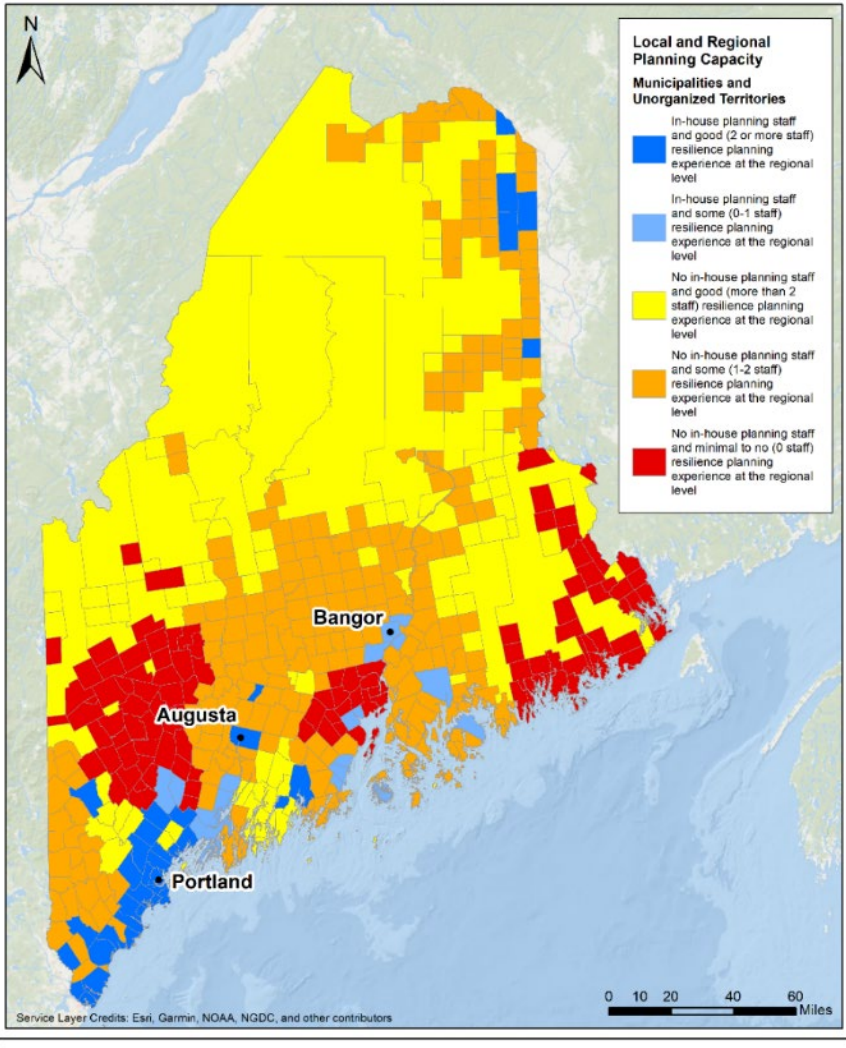
## State Resilience Office and Flood-Ready Maine Initiative

\$9.6 million

- Establish the State Resilience Office at MOCA (four 5yr positions, federally funded)
- Flood-Ready Maine initiative to improve flood models and maps and develop an online data hub (\$5.75m + geospatial data manager)
- Regional Certified Floodplain Manager initiative to increase NFIP participation (\$1.6m + program coordinator)

# Maine Office of Community Affairs (MOCA)

Because Maine communities face complex challenges and need a state partner to support planning and implementation capacity to address those challenges.





# State of Maine Housing Production Needs Study

Homes to support Mainers and Maine businesses,  
now and in the future.

October 2023



Maine needs 38,500 additional homes to meet unmet demand due to underproduction over the past decade. This is about a 5% increase in Maine's total housing inventory.

Going forward, Maine also needs between 38,000 and 46,000 additional homes by 2030, based on future population, housing market, and workforce scenarios.



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF  
Policy Innovation  
and the Future

# Office of New Americans Launch

- Governor Janet Mills signed an Executive Order (EO) directing GOPIF to develop a plan for establishing an Office of New Americans (ONA) in state government and GOPIF delivered that plan in the winter of 2024.
- The 131<sup>st</sup> legislature established the Office of New Americans in statute and two staff positions were funded in the state budget in 2024.
- Tarlan Ahmadov was appointed as first ONA director, and he will start January 21, 2025.

**The Office of New Americans (ONA) is charged with “making Maine a home of opportunity for all, by welcoming and supporting immigrants to strengthen Maine’s workforce, enhance the vibrancy of Maine’s communities, and build a strong and inclusive economy.”**



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