



**For Immediate Release**

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**MCCE Requests Investigation of Apparent Violations of Campaign Law**

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections (MCCE) has requested the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices to investigate campaign contributions reported by the Paul LePage campaign that appear to violate state law.

As of January 15, 2013 the 2014 LePage gubernatorial campaign reported contributions totaling \$4,500 from Cianbro, Inc., \$4,500 from the Maine Beer and Wine Wholesalers Association, and \$3,500 from Fairpoint Communications.

A law signed by Governor LePage in 2011 provides that no gubernatorial campaign may accept more than \$3,000 from any one contributor in an election cycle. 21-A M.R.S.A. 1015(1). The previous limit was \$1,500 per election cycle.

MCCE has been informed that the Ethics Commission has been aware of these contributions since January, 2013 but has not initiated an investigation or made a determination.

“The integrity of our political campaigns rests on the twin pillars of a strong public funding system and effective limits on the private funding side,” said MCCE Executive Director Andrew Bossie. “As we push for measures to strengthen Clean Elections and enhance disclosure, we must also insist on accountability and compliance with the rules that are in place today.” The 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature has not yet taken final action on proposals to strengthen and fully fund the Maine Clean Election Act.

In 2010 the Ethics Commission determined that Paul LePage’s first gubernatorial campaign had violated 21-A M.R.S.A. §1015 but imposed no sanction at that time.

[http://www.state.me.us/ethics/pdf/20101028\\_minutes.pdf](http://www.state.me.us/ethics/pdf/20101028_minutes.pdf)

The letter from Andrew Bossie requesting the investigation and determination is attached.

The Commission’s guide to candidate contribution limits is available at this link: <http://www.state.me.us/ethics/guide/contmax.htm>

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