February 5, 2013

Dear Members of the Board of the Greater Portland Economic Development Corporation,

On _____ the Falmouth Town Council voted _____ to adopt the GPEDC Protocol in the spirit of regional cooperation. Our agreement is accompanied by this side letter.

We are somewhat disappointed that the process did not offer enough time for communities to offer input. As you know, the Town of Falmouth, through its Town Council and appointed Falmouth Economic Improvement Committee offered suggestions that we believe were reasonable and offered clarity. Had all member communities been informed that there is an open period of time to offer suggestions prior to having a final draft we believe the Falmouth suggestions would have been better received. Considering three communities already committed to the first draft, it made it very challenging to accept suggested revisions.

We request that the GPEDC Board of Directors, GPEDC staff and all member communities be offered an opportunity to suggest amendments to the protocol in one year. It is good policy to review and evaluate previously approved policies and protocols and we hope you will consider this suggestion.

While our recently conveyed suggestions were not accepted by the GPEDC, they may or may not be relevant in one year. As you may recall these suggestions included the following:

1. Create a sunset clause to enable changes based on past experience;
2. Allow member communities to courteously offer options to businesses considering expansion in the region;
3. Offer clarification for developers' options to keep confidential or make information public; and
4. Suggest that the Executive Director should notify all communities about inquiries pertaining to business location in the region unless there is a request from a developer to limit the communication to a select list of member communities.

Thank you for considering our suggestions and we look forward to working with the GPEDC to strengthen our regional economy.

Best regards,

Nathan A. Poore
Town Manager