

December 14th -- Regulatory Fairness Board morning session meeting

9:12am – movement to convene. Present: All current board members.

Mr. Meisner has resigned, and appointment is to be made at some point, but unsure of how soon, per appointment of senate president.

Discussion of minutes from last meeting:

- Press Announcement, appreciate the efforts of David Clough for spreading the word through SBA network, hopefully will garner more support from release from this meeting.
- Linda Snyder comments on RFB work with composites folks: DECD made it sound like there few issues, but conversation with Steve Von Vogt did raise some issues of regulatory fairness.
- Van Perry suggests that the biggest issues he found were non-regulatory, i.e.: energy costs.

Stanley suggests that RFB could also pursue an interest in competitiveness and ways to expand/assist business.

Snyder brings up the example of the composites industry (i.e.: wind, boat building), and suggests that the industry is not as organized as they need to be and have not identified their own needs which is potentially why the DECD composites study had no strong conclusions. DECD may feel that RFB looking into this industry would not produce different results.

Stanley agrees that if RFB is not receiving the support from within the industry sector, RFB should move on, but if the sector does come forward in coming months, RFB can reconsider. Perry concurs that there is a generic feel to the complaints of the Composites industry, and that this industry has other issues that are not regulatory in nature. Stanley suggests that Composites be put on the back burner for the coming months.

Stanley mentions Rep. Smith's talk during the last meeting: can RFB recommend any areas where budgets can be cut?

Philips recalls Smith listing the various groups working on economic development and Philips suggests the importance of looking for redundancy between agencies that can be eliminated.

Shissler adds that work has been done on identifying redundancies, and DECD did a follow-up with recommendations of cuts that was brought to the Governor.

Stanley makes a motion to accept minutes from last meeting, Philips seconds to accept minutes as printed.

More on the topic of the composites industry, Emerson addresses training programs offered through the community college system to support industry – these training programs need advisory boards with many representatives, research projects, needs assessments, labor benefits – a lot of layers – before the training programs can be approved. The university system is trying to put out a high quality product, but there are so many applications in the industry, and each has a different requirement. These are areas that need assistance before such programs can move forward. Snyder recalls that von Vogt of the Composites alliance was not concerned with training programs. Shissler comments that MTI has done a lot of work on composites industry, and Shissler believes there is not yet enough regulation, especially in health conditions for the workers. For these reasons, along with other more broad issues, this should come off the plate for now, and Snyder agrees. Perry asks if we can investigate why composites companies are not moving to Maine – suggests that these are cost reasons, not regulatory.

Stanley suggests discussing the topic of the afternoon's hearing. Stanley will open the meeting by introducing all the members of the Board and will then follow a general order. Once a witness has made a statement, Eliot will ask the first question (if there are any questions), and will then ask deputy Chair Snyder, and then go in order through the members of the Board. Van Perry can introduce Matt Jacobson as a key person in the state of Maine trying to get businesses to

move to Maine as opposed to some other place – he must hear about regulations and whether these are issues or not. For Jon Doyle, Ed Philips can introduce and lead the discussion. Marie Emerson is an NFIB member and can introduce David Clough. Eliot Stanley will introduce Chris Hall. Lynda Snyder will introduce Marianne Sensale-Guerin.

Stanley suggests a meeting as soon as this hearing's transcript is ready (mid-January) to discuss if there are recommendations for BRED to be included in the interim report due for February. Then RFB staff will put together draft of the discussion for the report. Mid-March will be aim for next meeting and to talk about future hearings, and RFB should have hearings in more remote areas of the state – perhaps a hearing mid-summer in Calais, and another in Bangor or further North. RFB has met in Southern Maine in previous years.

Emerson asks if there is a comprehensive book or chart or outline of all the state agencies that hear complaints or describes what businesses need/where they can find support. Is there a decision tree? Shissler recollects that there is information available, and Emerson will work on finding similar best practices from other states.

Shissler expresses concern about treatment and expressing gratitude to witness who take time to appear at our hearings: Are there obligations/responsibilities with ending the communication with RFB? How do we let them know their time is appreciated? Snyder emphasizes that importance of letting them know their comments are significant and will be considered for report to legislature.

Stanley moves the conversation to consider the other possible directions for RFB consideration: if any members have specific knowledge or concern of something they've heard about, even if miniscule – please make suggestions to think about prior to the next meeting.

- Dental board; Dental hygienists (Stanley)
- Siting approval (Perry)
- Worker's comp (Shissler)
- Fishing industry [may be federal or local, but still voices who are not being heard]; Worker's comp issues (Shissler)
- Nuclear deregulation interest, "Back-fit" (Meisner)
- Guide-book for regulations, decision tree; Implications of a national ID standard (Emerson)
- Fire Marshalls and regulation, disconnect between local, state, or fed (Snyder)
- Taxation affect – will hold until June referendum (Philips)

Stanley concludes by addressing the need for meeting in January to discuss the transcript from the hearing and to prepare for drafting the report for February to Maine legislature, and then tentatively planning a mid-March meeting to guide the agenda for rest of the year. The meeting is dismissed at 11:10am until the 1pm hearing in the BRED committee room.