

## ***Regional Voices from Sebago Lake to Casco Bay***

January is many things in Maine, including a month full of world-class outdoor recreational opportunities across our region. At the State House in Augusta, January is the month of new beginnings.

There are 41 state legislators in our region – more than 20% of the total. Together they represent a powerful voice for what our region needs, and wants, in the years ahead. [Click here](#) for a list of our region’s legislators and their contact information.

**By reaching out to legislators to say “hello” and share your priorities, you can make your voice more influential than you may realize.** I hope you take a few minutes to send an email, or make a call, to any of the regional lawmakers whom you know, or want to get to know, in the weeks ahead.

Legislators now have assignments to Standing Committees. This is where most of the work will get done over the next six months on more than 2,000 bills. If you’d like to know more about committees you can:

- [Click here](#) for background about what each committee focuses on.
- Click on these links to see which [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#) serve on each committee.
- [Click here](#) and select a committee to pull up a wealth of information about what the committee is working on now and how to participate in their work.

The **Appropriations Committee** is the most powerful committee because this is where the decisions are made about the budget. Gov. Mills in the next few weeks will send her two-year budget to the Legislature, and the Appropriations Committee will begin work on taking her proposal and producing a state budget for us all.

We’ve talked to our members and heard what’s important to them. At the top of the list: returning Revenue Sharing to its traditional 5%, increasing state aid to local education, and reversing other state financial decisions that have put more pressure on the local property tax.

If you agree, **you’re only one click away from having the Appropriations Committee at your fingertips, with an email or a phone call.** Share your thoughts about what is most important to you and your community. You can begin a conversation today that will continue throughout the legislative session.

Thank you for taking the time to get in touch with lawmakers. If you’d like to know more about how to make your voice heard, just let me know.