

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



March 7, 2011

Peter Cooke
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
17 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Peter,

On behalf of the Maine Grocers Association and the Maine Merchants Association Board of Directors' we want to express our sincere appreciation for your participation in the March 24 Spring Issues Forum at the Augusta Civic Center.

This marks our second year to co-host this event to promote our mutual interest in advancing Maine's retail business sector. The Spring Issues Forum provides our members an opportunity to hear from some of Maine's most influential leaders and we are delighted that if your schedule permits you will be able to join us. We expect over 100 grocers and retailers as well as wholesalers, distributors and their suppliers to attend. In addition, food and beverage processors from the Maine Food Producers Alliance will be on hand.

The Springs Issue Forum will take place at the Augusta Civic Center in the Ft. Western/Arnold/Howard room located on the first floor. Please note on the enclosed Program Agenda that you are invited to give your remarks beginning at 10:00 a.m. – please be our guest for lunch as well.

If there is anything else that you need, please contact Shelley at 622-4461 or via email at sdoak@mainegrocers.org. Thank you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shelley F. Doak'.

Shelley F. Doak
Executive Director
Maine Grocers Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Curtis F. Picard'.

Curtis Picard
Executive Director
Maine Merchants Association

Maine Grocers Association & Maine Merchants Association
Spring Issues Forum
Wednesday, March 24, 2011

9:30 a.m. Registration & Refreshments

10:00 a.m. Roundtable Discussion & Presentations
Join newly appointed officials, their staff and others in facilitated discussions that lead to improved working relationships.

State Sales & Use Taxes & IRS Business Taxes
Speakers: Jerome D. Gerard, Acting Director Maine Revenue Services, Peter Beaulieu, Director Sales Tax Division and Shawn Savage, IRS

Retail Crime
Speaker: William J. Schneider, Attorney General

Environmental Leader Certification Program
Green Demographics: What Today's Customers Are Looking For
Speaker: Peter Cooke, Department of Environmental Protection

11:15 a.m. 125th Legislative Session Update
 Kevin L. Raye, President of the Maine Senate
 Representative Emily Ann Cain, Minority Leader

Noon Luncheon Speaker - Mallory Duncan, Senior VP & General Council, National Retail Federation
Swipe Fees: How Grocers and Retailers Can Fight Back

Mallory Duncan, Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the National Retail Federation will discuss the ongoing battle in both Washington DC and in the states the efforts to address escalating credit and debit card fees. These fees have tripled over the last ten years to \$40 billion dollars and merchants and grocers have had a hard time fighting back until now. With the passage of the Durbin amendment last summer as a positive first step, legislators are starting to understand how these costs have hurt small business and led to higher prices for consumers. But the battle is not over.

1:00 p.m. Ask the Commissioner & Top Official – Concurrent Sessions
Join newly appointed Commissioners, their staff and others in facilitated discussions that lead to improved working relationships.

Session 1 – Retail & Manufacturing Licensing, Beverage Containers & Maine Milk Commission
Speakers: Walt Whitcomb, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture—Invited
 Hal Prince, Quality Assurance & Regulations; Tim Drake, Maine Milk Commission

Session 2 – Liquor & Lottery Licensing and Enforcement
Speakers: John E. Morris, Commissioner, Public Safety and Tim Poulin, Director of Operations,
 Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations

Work Place Safety Presentation
Speaker: Steven Greeley, Department of Labor

2:15 P.M. Adjourn

MGA & MMA
Spring Issues Forum
March 24, 2010
Augusta Civic Center

Registration Form

Name _____
 Company _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone _____
 Email _____

Please list those who will be attending so that we may have an accurate count for lunch.

Complimentary registration for MMA & MGA members until March 17; \$25 fee thereafter. Non member fee is \$25.00.

Register Today!

• Online registration at :
<http://2011springissues.eventbrite.com/>

• **OR**

• Mail, phone or fax registration form to:
 Maine Grocers Association,
 P.O. Box 190, Hallowell, ME 04347
 Telephone: 207.622.4461
 Fax: 207.622.9732