The Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry presents the following priorities for bills currently sitting on the Appropriations Table:

For bills with Other Special Revenue fund fiscal notes or minimal General Fund impact:

The Committee unanimously endorsed LD 5, An Act to Make Changes to the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund and supports its enactment; the Committee voted 12-1 in support of LD 525, An Act To Promote Industrial Hemp and a majority supports its enactment; the Committee voted 11-2 in support of LD 837, An Act To Clarify the Laws Establishing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and a majority supports its enactment; and 8 members of the Committee voted in favor of LD 718, An Act To Protect Maine Food Consumers’ Right to Know About Genetically Engineered Food and a majority supports its enactment.

For bills with General Fund impact, the Committee presents the following priorities:

1.) LD 377, An Act To Provide Funding to Soil and Water Conservation Districts ($200,000 GF Appropriation in each year of the biennium)
2.) LD 707, An Act To Refund the Sales Tax Paid on Fuel Used in Commercial Agricultural Production ($250,800 loss of GF revenue in 2013-14 and $315,067 loss of GF revenue in 2014-15)
3.) LD 59, An Act Relating to the Unlawful Cutting of Trees ($3,700 in GF funds in 2013-14 for rulemaking)
4.) LD 1287, An Act to Deregulate Face-to-face Transactions between the People and Small Farms and Small Food Producers ($22,800 loss of GF revenue in both years of the biennium)
5.) LD 1282, An Act To Help Small Farmers in Selling Raw Milk ($3,700 in GF funds in 2013-14 for rulemaking)
6.) LD 368, An Act to Ensure the Continuation of Dairy Farming ($1,251,422 loss of GF revenues in 2013-14 and $2,453,222 loss of GF revenues in 2014-15)

Should you wish additional explanation or information on the matters addressed in this memorandum, please don’t hesitate to contact us or the committee’s analyst.

Cc: Members, Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs
    Members, Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry