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> STEPHEN L. BOWEN COMMISSIONER

June 4, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write this letter of recommendation as a long-time user of DataSpecs. The Maine Department of Education first implemented DataSpecs in 2006 as the initial phase for the Statewide Longitudinal Systems grant project. We were able to document our LEA data collections, data repositories and data elements. Using DataSpecs we created the metadata dictionary and identified the core data sources for the SLDS data warehouse.

Recently, Commissioner Bowen initiated an effort to retrain our data stewards and update the metadata as we make another review of the data collections with the goal of further reducing the LEAs State reporting burden.

Over the years, ESP Solutions Group has been very responsive to any requests we have made for assistance. They have maintained the software and have continually installed upgrades to the features and functions. I would recommend DataSpecs to other SEAs as a metadata management tool.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Bill Hurwitch Director, Statewide Longitudinal Data System (207) 624-6816 <u>bill.hurwitch@maine.gov</u>