



4. Defendant [Public Agency] is a government entity established under the laws of the State of Maine. The [Public Agency]’s principal place of business is [Address], Maine.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5. Plaintiff petitions for review of the denial of his request for government records pursuant to M.R. Civ. P. 80B. Venue is properly laid in [County] County because Defendant is a public agency located in [County] County and because the cause of action arose in [County] County.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

6. On [Date], Plaintiff [Journalist’s Name] submitted a written request to Defendant [Public Agency] seeking the disclosure of [Describe the government records]. A copy of Plaintiff ’s request letter is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

7. On [Date], Defendant responded to Plaintiff by denying the request. *See* Exhibit 2. [Include any other factual information in chronological order].

8. The records requested by Plaintiff are public records as defined by 1 M.R.S.A. § 402, and are not subject to any exemption.

9. Plaintiff has a legitimate public and private interest in the records requested, and Plaintiff’s interest is not outweighed by Defendant’s interest in keeping the records secret.

### **FIRST COUNT (Freedom of Access Act Violation)**

10. Plaintiff hereby repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-9 of this Complaint.

11. Maine’s FOAA provides that it is the “intent of the Legislature that . . . records . . . be open to public inspection . . . .” 1 M.R.S.A. § 401. To this end, “a person has the right to

inspect and copy any public record . . . within a reasonable period of time after making a request to inspect or copy the public record.” 1 M.R.S.A. § 408-A.

12. In refusing to timely produce the requested government records, Defendant relied on [Basis for denial]. [Describe why the basis for denial is not applicable under the FOAA].

13. By failing to timely comply with the FOAA, and by its continued refusal to provide Plaintiff with the documents sought by [his/her] [Date] FOAA request, Defendant continues to violate the FOAA.

14. Defendant’s refusal to comply with the FOAA and provide access to the documents sought by Plaintiff is willful and in bad faith, and Plaintiff may therefore recover litigation expenses and reasonable attorneys fees. 1. M.R.S.A. § 409(4).

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff demands:

- A. Copies of all documents requested by him in his [Date] FOAA request to the extent not previously provided;
- B. An award of costs of this action and reasonable attorneys’ fees; and
- C. Such other relief as the Court may deem equitable and just.

Respectfully submitted,

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_