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- I started a company two years ago called Savi Systems. Savi focuses on helping building owners to save energy through light improvements and building controls. Savi targets both small businesses: convenience stores, mini-malls to larger buildings including hospitals, grocery stores, schools, and municipal buildings. Maine has a lot of old, inefficient buildings.
- We approach a building owner with solutions to save energy. For example, a lighting retrofit and occupancy sensors and LEDs. Typically our solutions will provide a payback within 3-5 years. When we apply Efficiency Maine Incentives to our solutions, the payback becomes 1 – 1.5 years.
- In other words, once we implement our energy saving technology in a building, the energy saved in one year pays for the total cost of the system. Often we will finance these solutions so that they effectively add to the bottom line from day one.
- Without Efficiency Maine, the business model would not be so compelling.
- In addition, Savi has just become designated as a Woman Owned Government Contractor. With this new status, we hope to increase the efficiency of Federal buildings and work with the Department of Defense and Department of Energy.
- My other affiliation is with Thayer Corporation based in Auburn. Thayer provides mechanical engineering services, which traditionally includes heating, ventilation, refrigeration, and air conditioning. However, the company has branched out into providing alternative fuel systems including biomass (wood pellet and wood chips), geothermal solutions, solar, and involvement in wind projects recently.
- There is a lot of interest and activity with biomass recently. Many active projects are receiving incentive funds and/or grants to encourage build out of these alternative fuel sources through the Department of Conservation and the USDA.
- Today, the government-sponsored incentives currently in place are spurring active deployment of clean energy solutions – directed toward both the conservation and generation of energy. These projects are providing jobs for people in Maine.
- The clean energy legislation is critically important to not only encourage a reduction of our dependence on fossil fuels but it also translates directly to the creation of good paying jobs in Maine.
- Thank you for inviting me to make comments and especially thank you to Sens. Snowe and Collins for playing an active role in promoting clean energy legislation.