

June 2010

Dear Friends of NRCM,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and countless others who love and enjoy Maine's rich natural heritage, I am privileged to express our deep appreciation to Brownie Carson for his 26 years of leadership at the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Brownie's decision to step down later in the year means an exciting change for him and an important transition for the organization, which has begun the search for our next executive director.

Since he joined the staff in 1983, Brownie has helped to build NRCM into one of the strongest and most effective environmental advocacy organizations in the country. The staff has grown from seven to twenty-three and our supporters from a few thousand to more than 12,000. Brownie also led a successful campaign to secure funds to purchase a permanent headquarters for NRCM, just a few steps away from the State House.

More important, Brownie has worked tirelessly with NRCM's staff and his colleagues at other environmental organizations to identify threats and find meaningful solutions that result in a healthier, more vibrant Maine. These solutions include the removal of the Edwards Dam and planned efforts to remove head-of-tide dams on the Penobscot to help revitalize our rivers, first-in-the-nation laws to reduce our exposure to toxic chemicals, increased public ownership and private conservation through the Land for Maine's Future program, and comprehensive policies to promote clean energy and reduce the threat of climate change.



Brownie Carson on Katahdin, October 2006

I have known Brownie since his earliest days at NRCM, when I was a young Maine Guide who led rafting trips down the West Branch of the Penobscot. A proposed dam at Big Ambejackmockamus Falls would have destroyed this beautiful stretch of river. By working with Brownie and the talented staff at NRCM, I learned that we can make a difference—together, we can protect the beauty and natural resources of Maine. Brownie's unwavering confidence in the power of citizen activists is his legacy.

The Board of Directors has appointed a search committee and has engaged Isaacson, Miller, an executive search firm with a strong record of identifying and placing environmental leaders, to manage the search. We anticipate that the position will interest experienced advocates and non-profit leaders from within Maine and around the country. We are committed to finding the right individual, one who will help fulfill NRCM's mission and build on all that we have accomplished under Brownie's leadership.

In the meantime, Brownie will continue—full time, full force, and with the full partnership of the Board, the staff, and our members—until we have found an exceptional executive director to lead us into the next era of NRCM's distinguished service to Maine. The search will take several months, and we anticipate the new executive director will start by early 2011. I will keep you updated on the search process.

Please join me in thanking Brownie for all he has done and continues to do to protect the natural heritage of Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Houston".

William M. Houston
President, NRCM Board of Directors



Natural Resources Council of Maine

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