

Guiding Principles for Ensuring a Strong Maine Economy, Good Jobs and a Clean and Healthy Environment

A strong economy, clean environment, and healthy people go hand-in-hand – we don't have to choose one over another. Our natural resources remain one of Maine's most important differentiating assets – they are the basis for current and future jobs, the engine for Maine's \$10 billion annual tourism industry, and a draw for new businesses and workers attracted to Maine's quality of life.

It is in the interests of all Maine people to create more good jobs and increased opportunities for businesses to expand and prosper. We all benefit when our laws and regulations are implemented in an efficient, cost-effective, predictable, and fair manner, but we all would lose if “reforms” were adopted that increased air and water pollution, degraded Maine's landscapes, and resulted in more toxic chemicals in consumer products and the environment.

Maine's clean, healthy and productive environment is not an accident. Rather, it is the result of careful stewardship and forward-looking policies adopted through bipartisan leadership and support over the past several decades. The Legislature must use extreme care in its approach to “regulatory reform,” and only pursue proposals that have been thoroughly evaluated, in a transparent fashion, and demonstrated to meet the following five principles:

- 1) Proposals should benefit Maine people and businesses, and not the special interests of out-of-state corporations that do not employ Maine workers;
- 2) Proposals must have a direct relationship to strengthening Maine's economy and creating good Maine jobs, and must not put current jobs at risk;
- 3) Proposals should focus on improved implementation of Maine's laws and regulations, and not on a weakening of Maine's environmental standards and safeguards;
- 4) Proposals should be founded on well-documented opportunities for process improvements, and not be based on an isolated case, single anecdote, or unsubstantiated assertion; and
- 5) Proposals must ensure continued protection of Maine's air, water, land, wildlife, and the good health of Maine people.

What's good for Maine's environment is good for Maine's economy.