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**Phil Coupe and Fortunat Mueller**  
**2015 Conservation Leadership Award**

*For their vision and leadership in moving Maine toward a clean energy future*

Climate change has been called the greatest environmental challenge of our time. Here in Maine, we are already dealing with its effects: deer tick populations are expanding rapidly, increasing the risk of Lyme disease and causing problems for our iconic moose. Commercial fishermen are increasingly concerned about species shifting in the Gulf of Maine. With global warming comes sea-level rise that puts our coastal communities and wildlife habitat on the line. Our ski industry, and other areas of our nature-based economy have much to lose unless we change our energy course, and soon.

Two of the individuals we are honoring tonight understand what's at stake here in our beautiful state, and they have made it their life's mission to set Maine on a course for a clean energy future. Phil Coupe is a solar power and electric vehicle crusader. Over the last several years, Phil has spoken at countless press events, served on panels, and provided testimony at hearings. If you've got questions about how Maine can save money on energy and benefit from clean energy jobs, Phil's got answers. He is equally effective at conversing about the climate crisis, but brings to it his positive vision for a sustainable economy. Couple Phil's passion and expertise with the commitment and knowledge of his business partner, Fortunat Mueller, and Maine has a clean energy powerhouse that is simply invaluable. Fortunat's substantial policy and clean energy business expertise has positioned him as a leader in legislative and Public Utilities Commission solar policy over the last two years. He is a trusted go-to guy for information about solar business models, regulation, and policy—all the more so for his welcoming approach and good humor. Together they have helped NRCM engage with thousands of homeowners who have gone solar to make our voice for solar change much louder. Their incredible efforts to move Maine forward on clean energy goes far beyond their business. For them, it's personal. I speak for all of us here at NRCM when I say that they have been essential partners in our clean energy and climate efforts. It is an honor, on behalf of NRCM, to present a 2015 Conservation Leadership Award to Phil Coupe and Fortunat Mueller.