

Press Statement – February 4, 2009
Businesses Call for Climate Change Action

Adam Lee, President
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I'm in the car business, but I know that there's more to life than selling cars. I run a family-owned business that has been in Maine for three generations. I feel lucky to have grown up in a place as beautiful as Maine, with everything our state has to offer. To protect that, I, as a business person, am willing to go to great effort to support energy policies that push clean energy and energy efficiency to the forefront. I believe it is the responsibility of all businesses to do the same, if we are to protect the state where we do business, and the place we call home.

Science tells us that we must reduce our carbon emissions by 80% over the next 50 years if we are to preserve a semblance of our current natural environment. It's time to start down this path today in every way possible.

The private market can do a lot to help solve this, but it cannot do enough on its own. I have faith in the ability of entrepreneurs and engineers to be innovative and develop the new technologies necessary to meet aggressive goals set by the federal government. The auto industry has the ability to be really innovative. Despite their severe challenges, with proper incentives and assistance from the Federal Government, I believe that they will be able to surprise us with new technologies. Now, the entire energy sector needs new goals and a roadmap to create the technologies needed to reduce emissions by 80% across our economy within the next few decades. Significant public investments are needed in these new clean energy technologies and in energy efficiency programs in order to get the job done. These investments are part of the "green recovery" that we desperately need in Maine and across the country. They will put Maine workers to work helping to build a more sustainable economy.

It can be done if Washington steps up to the plate in 2009 through federal climate change legislation. The Obama Administration has indicated its intention to move proposals forward. Maine's Senators Snowe and Collins showed their support for federal action last spring when the climate change debate was first initiated in Congress. We are asking them today to continue their leadership and support of legislation going forward. And we are asking Congressman Michaud and Congresswoman Pingree to step forward and lead the debate in the House so we can ensure action is taken this year.

Maine's businessmen and women are counting on you this year. We look forward to working with you and we will support your efforts here at home.