

**Speaking points, Jim Wellehan
Maine Businesses for Climate Action press conference
February 4, 2009**

- My name is Jim Wellehan, and I'm the President of Lamey Wellehan Shoes, a Maine brand since 1914...
- **We are at a crossroads** on the challenge of global warming. This issue transcends environment and economy—it is about the legacy we leave for the next generation of Mainers.
- **The challenge of global warming provides extraordinary opportunity** for Maine to gain new green jobs in wind farms, the manufacture of turbines, energy auditing, insulation contractors, new solar technology plants, tidal power, geothermal technology, and new hyper efficient housing materials.
- I don't run an energy company, I run a shoe company. But **I'm concerned about Maine's economy and I know that our dependence on fossil fuels is hurting us now and it will only get worse if we don't change course.**
- We can seize the need to address climate change to rebuild and renew our state. Whatever his abilities, President Obama can't do this himself. **We need Democrats & Republicans, businesses and environmentalists, private sector and government, working together for real action.**
- We joined the Governor's Carbon Challenge several years ago so that we could better track our efforts to reduce global warming pollution. We've done several things in our stores, some large, some small. **But we can't get the job done if we have to go store by store, businessman by businessman—we need an economy-wide approach.**
- There are still **policies Maine can use to curb global warming and grow our clean energy sector.** We need to dramatically increase our use of energy efficiency. And like several European countries, we should encourage the growth of our renewable industries by giving renewable projects large and small a preferred rate for their electricity.
- **We especially need leadership in Washington to bring these opportunities to fruition.**
- In the past, Maine's delegation has spoken in favor of the need to pass strong, effective climate legislation. 2009 is the year to make it happen—and that will take the next level of leadership. The time to act has come.