

Maine Business Leaders Urge Sens. Snowe, Collins to Lead on Strong Climate and Energy Legislation

“Maine relies on our natural resource-based industries, which rely in turn on the climate we have always enjoyed. It’s obvious that Saddleback and other Maine ski areas have a stake in how global warming pollution affects our climate. We’re taking climate change seriously and we need the federal government to act now to help solve the problem.”

*Warren Cook, General Manager of **Saddleback Ski Area** in Rangeley.*

“Hannaford is committed to energy conservation and environmental sustainability. It both makes business sense and helps address global warming. We’re all in this together. Government and business leaders need to take actions that solve global warming: use less energy and use cleaner energy.”

*Art Aleshire, senior vice president of corporate development at **Hannaford Supermarkets**.*

“We are at a crossroads, and the challenge of global warming provides extraordinary opportunity for Maine to gain new green jobs in wind power, the construction of turbines, new solar technology plants, geo-thermal technology, and new hyper-efficient housing materials. We need to support dramatic change in Washington to bring these about, and support Feed-in tariffs in Maine to encourage the growth of these new industries.”

*Jim Wellehan, owner and CEO of **Lamey Wellehan Shoes** of Augusta, Bangor, Scarborough, Falmouth, Brunswick, and Auburn.*

“I’m in the auto business, but I know that there’s more to life than selling cars. I run a family-owned business that goes back generations. I feel lucky to have grown up in Maine and to be able to live here and make a good living here. 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.”

*Adam Lee, President, **Lee Auto Malls** of Auburn, Augusta, Lewiston, Newport, Norway, Saco, Topsham, Westbrook, and Windham.*

“The RGGI legislation in Maine was unprecedented in the breadth of support it received, because of efforts to find common ground between industry, government, and environmental groups. Verso was pleased to participate, and believes the RGGI model balanced the desire to control CO2 emissions with the need and uses of energy by industry. There are many lessons learned and the Maine experience is certainly a model for the federal government as it begins considering climate control legislation.”

*Bill Cohen of **Verso Paper Corporation’s** Jay and Bucksport mills.*

"Our company does not have expertise in the science of climate change, nor are we policy experts. But we have become involved in the construction of renewable energy projects in Maine and believe that the transition to clean energy is vital – for Maine’s environment and our economy – and federal climate legislation will help spur this transition. Federal climate legislation would help boost renewable energy projects, and energy efficiency investments, and development of new technologies to reduce our emissions of carbon dioxide.”

*Jack Parker President & CEO, **Reed & Reed** of Woolwich.*

“We need to take decisive action to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and increase our energy security. As the price of oil increases in the future – as we know it will – Maine will remain highly vulnerable to energy price shocks. That’s why we need to shift toward clean, renewable energy and increased energy efficiency. Passage of federal climate and clean energy legislation would provide the road map we need toward a clean energy future, not just for Maine, but also for the nation as a whole.”

*Milton McBreairty of **Larkin Enterprises** of Lincoln*

“We see ourselves as in the ‘energy’ business, not just the ‘oil’ business and believe it is past time for other fuel dealers and heating technicians to do the same. Over time, fuel oil will go the way of the buggy whip, and along with others in the oil business we will have to grow and change to succeed...and I say ‘the sooner the better!’ That’s one reason I want Maine’s Senators Snowe and Collins to be working hard for strong federal legislation that will deliver a clean energy future and help stop climate change.”

*George Haselton, co-owner of **Harvest Energy and Rockport Mechanical** of Rockport.*

“The Clean Energy and Climate Change legislation that is being discussed will provide long-term stability that we have not had in the past. As a small business owner in Maine, this type of stability is critical as we expand our renewable energy business and create new jobs.”

*Kate Burgess Rush, co-owner of **Elovo Home Center** in Newport.*

“Climate change poses a serious threat to our tourism and hospitality industry. We are in business because people want to have their conferences, weddings, and vacations where there are colorful maple trees, snowy trails, clear lakes and streams, and cool, dry summer nights. But, with climate change we will see increased precipitation like we had last summer, less snow cover like we had this winter, and declining colorful fall foliage. Together, they will significantly impact the revenues and taxes generated by Maine’s largest economic sector.”

*Scott Cowger, co-owner of **Maple Hill Farm Bed & Breakfast Inn and Conference Center** in Hallowell.*

“As a manager at two energy-related companies, I understand how important energy issues are to Maine businesses. We’re working every day to help companies reduce energy costs and improve productivity with energy efficiency and alternative energy systems. While Maine is a leader, we can’t achieve everything on our own. It’s time for Congress to pass comprehensive legislation that will create jobs in the clean energy economy here in Maine and across the country.”

*Heather Blease, **Savi Systems and Thayer Corporation** of Auburn.*