



Maine Environment



Natural Resources
Council of Maine

Winter 2012

What We Hold Dear By Lisa Pohlmann, Executive Director

I took my six-year-old grandson out for an afternoon adventure in the snow-covered woods in mid-January. We followed deer tracks down to a trickling stream. I pointed out the wooden duck houses standing in the marshes. We took a minute to watch chickadees pecking on the trees. In the quiet of the Maine forest, he learned a little more about these precious creatures, about the special places we share, and about how important it is that we look out for them.

Maine is home to abundant wildlife because so much of our natural landscape is still relatively intact. From forests to fields to coastal bays, from alpine heights to deep, dark lakes, the natural habitats of Maine are uniquely bountiful. Eagles, alewives, bobcats, eiders, brook trout, moose, lobsters, black bear, even animals we never see—all thrive here as long as we have clean air, clean water, and plenty of habitat. This web of life not only weaves us together and sustains our spirits, it also forms the basis of our health and economy.

Maine people take our natural heritage very seriously. Working together, we have put a solid foundation of protections in place over the last 50 years to better ensure that this landscape is here for our enjoyment and our sustenance, and for future generations to treasure. Science, economics, and common sense guide how we protect what we hold dear. Experience has taught us that environmental damage, like oil spills, mercury pollution, air-borne toxics, and ocean acidification, have economic costs that we all bear. We have learned the hard way that the natural environment can be altered to the point of no return.

Disturbing Disconnect

NRCM staff and members are fighting very hard against ill-conceived proposals advanced by Governor LePage and his Administration. While



the governor finally gave a nod to the connection between Maine's environment and economy in his State of the State address, what we see in action does not match up. He barely acknowledges the tourism industry, Maine's largest employer, which is enormously dependent on conservation. His repeated call for the revival of fishing, farming, and forestry in Maine is not accompanied by any recognition of the environmental protections and programs needed to keep those activities thriving and sustainable. We hear a callous disregard for anything that does not have an immediate pay-out—

like resource extraction. To this Administration, public lands seem to be a burden rather than an ecological and economic investment.

Nowhere is this disconnect more evident than in the Administration's plans to dismantle state agencies and departments responsible for protecting our air, land, water, and wildlife. The Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), for example, has served for 40 years as the guide for development in the North Woods so that it could be balanced with the protection of natural areas. The agency's work has been based on agreement that it is in the state's best interest to keep Maine's forests intact so they can continue to support both our forestry and outdoor recreation economies.

Let's remember what's there to protect. Maine's North Woods are home to populations of moose that keep the whole region's herds thriving. They host more than 130 species of birds and the country's largest population of native brook trout. Canada lynx, pine marten, and northern bog lemming live in Maine only in the North Woods. As any sportsman knows, the area supports important populations of black bear, white-tailed deer, and bobcat. Generations of families have paddled, fished, and camped in the North

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Maine's North Woods Still Under Threat

Last year, a bill was introduced in the Legislature to abolish the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), the agency responsible for planning, permitting, and enforcing standards to protect what is special about Maine's North Woods. The Legislature changed that bill into a study of land use in the North Woods. This treasured region is vast enough to provide wildlife habitat, timber for the forest products industry, and recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, paddling, snowmobiling, and white-water rafting. Last fall the study committee issued a report proposing changes, several of which could prove very harmful to the area.

Now a bill, LDI 1798, has been introduced to implement those changes. The two most damaging provisions would allow counties to opt out (or drop out) of LURC, and allow county commissioners to appoint themselves or someone else as LURC Commissioner with no oversight. Allowing counties to drop out of LURC's is the same as abolishing LURC, county by county. The loss of LURC's one-stop land use planning, zoning, permitting, and enforcement would lead to inconsistent, fragmented, complicated systems that are far more unpredictable, inefficient, and confusing. Allowing county commissioners to appoint themselves without the normal process of gubernatorial nomination, legislative committee hearing, and Senate confirmation would be a recipe for disaster, setting up inevitable conflicts, limiting the pool of strong candidates, and placing commissioners with no experience in land use planning on this important decision-making body. No other statewide regulatory body has members appointed by local constituencies.

L.D. 1798 also proposes to turn permitting of all large projects over to DEP, which has very limited experience in reviewing the impacts of development on the undeveloped character of the North Woods, the scenic values of the North Woods, existing North Woods-type recreational uses, and the businesses that rely on the North Woods. DEP also does not review shoreland zoning impacts. A project needing rezoning, or located in the shoreland zone, would have to get one permit from LURC and one from DEP. The bill also proposes to eliminate the requirement that a developer show there is a need for a proposed project. This could lead to speculative, spread-out development and extra costs to the public to pay for public infrastructure (police and fire protection, roads, snow plowing, etc.) to unneeded developments.

NRCM is fighting hard to change these provisions. Please call your legislator and ask them to oppose these four parts of the bill. —Cathy Johnson, North Woods Project Director




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CHECK YOUR LABEL!
Please call NRCM with
address corrections
or duplicate mailings!

An Introduction from Tony Owens, M.D., NRCM's New Board President

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." So Aldo Leopold tells us in *A Sand County Almanac*. I just finished rereading this iconic work in celebration of Leopold's birthday. My first read was in 1970 during the first Earth Day, as a college junior. The book and his life's work continue as beacons for my advocacy. NRCM's focus areas—North Woods protection, clean energy and efficiency, toxic pollution, and clean waters—are often complex, but Leopold's principle simplifies these issues when we finally have to say yes or no.



Our job as advocates for Maine's environment has never been more important. In November, I was elected president of your Board of Directors, and I want you to know how seriously I take that responsibility. We need to expect a commitment from one another of no less than 100 percent, if we are to "protect, conserve, and restore Maine's environment, now and for future generations," in the words of NRCM's mission statement.

As a longtime member, I have met many people in NRCM's extended family. My career as an emergency medicine physician, primarily at Maine Medical Center, has allowed me to pursue my interests in patient care, research, and teaching. Recently, though, I reduced my work to half-time to allow me to enjoy a deeper involvement in community and environmental advocacy. My wife, Beth, and I feel privileged to have raised our family in Maine and both share a belief in giving back to the communities and state that have nurtured us.

As serious as my commitment is to protecting Maine's environment, I also have a lot of fun throughout our state. I enjoy equally the North Woods and the coast. I am as at home canoeing, hunting, and fishing the woods as I am sailing or kayaking the coast. Beth was raised on Penobscot Bay and Eggemoggin Reach, and our children spent part of each summer on Hurricane Island as we worked with the Outward Bound School there. We both share a passion for gardening, Beth with flowers and me organically with vegetables. I have been inspired by botanists, both amateur and professional, and spend time as a Plant Conservation Volunteer with the New England Wildflower Society assessing the status of threatened native plant sites throughout Maine. As an aspiring birder, I volunteer with the Maine Owl Monitoring Program and the Christmas Bird Count.

My interests and activities remind me how important it is to protect what's special about Maine. We kept these qualities in mind as NRCM board and staff worked carefully on our 2012–2014 strategic plan, which the board recently unanimously approved. This will be our compass for the next three years. We aimed high with our goals, developed concrete work plans, and outlined benchmarks to measure our success. We will retain our focus areas. In the near term, our priorities will be to prevent environmental rollbacks (including weakening of state agencies) and to advance any opportunities we may find to create new or stronger safeguards for Maine's environment. NRCM's advocacy staff is working feverishly during this legislative session and will be keeping you informed of ways you can get involved, including participating February 28th in Citizen Action Day. Visit our website to join our online Action Network and "Like" us on Facebook to hear about news and opportunities as they happen. As you know, we have our work cut out for us, but together, we can get the job done. I personally look forward to serving you and NRCM's mission every way that I can.

—Tony Owens, NRCM Board President

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Woods, treasuring them as the backdrop for tradition.

Weakening LURC puts all of this at risk and opens the door for more scattered development and habitat loss. But despite widespread vocal opposition for the last year, a plan has emerged, supported by the



DANIEL POLESCHOCK, JR. AND VIRGINIA R. POLESCHOCK

Administration, that would splinter LURC's statewide perspective by populating the board with strictly regional appointments, and potentially abolishing it through a county "opt-out" provision. The Legislature needs to hear from you about what's at stake and to reject these harmful plans.

Stopping the End of Progress

Consider also the so-called "takings" bill, which would require Maine taxpayers to pay landowners to obey the law when basic environmental protections create a reduction in property value. Such proposals have been heard repeatedly in Maine and in states across the country and are regularly shot down. Oregon passed such a bill and was hit with more than 8,000 claims for repayment with a price tag of \$40 billion. They repealed their law within three years. The current proposal in Maine has a "pay or waive" scheme; if the state doesn't have funds to pay a claim, the law would be selectively waived. The result would be a patchwork of laws across the state and harm to neighbors. This is a dangerous proposal that must be stopped, and we will be working hard to do so.

State program dismantlement is on the menu without any clear indication of what useful purpose it will serve. The State Planning Office is being abolished and as its functions are disbursed, many are being weakened. For example, the Administration proposes to move the Land for Maine's Future program to the Department of Conservation. Already crippled by the governor's opposition to bond funding and elimination of the executive director position, this popular conservation program has protected urban green spaces and rural landscapes in all 16 counties, with overwhelming public support of each bond measure. Most of us know and love a place that was protected through LMF funding. Think of the Kennebec Plains, for example, where families can hike and see the world's largest population of a rare plant called the northern blazing star, hear the songs of state-endangered Grasshopper Sparrows and Upland Sandpipers, ride bikes on paths through the fields, and pick wild blueberries in August.

There are restructuring and merger proposals afoot among the natural resource agencies like the departments of Environmental Protection, Conservation, and Agriculture. What seems apparent is that the "open for business" mentality is running roughshod over a functioning system of environmental protections.

One example is the evident influence of out-of-state manufacturers in a recent DEP report that showed financial costs but omitted benefits associated with our successful product recycling programs. These programs have removed mercury and other toxins from our waste stream. We will fight against efforts to eliminate these programs that are protecting the health of Maine people and wildlife and reducing costs for municipalities.

Meanwhile, employees with years of expertise are fleeing the toxic atmosphere that has been created under this Administration. Many employees are being silenced and are not free to do the important job of implementing the programs that take care of our environment. The very underpinning of the state's day-to-day research, monitoring, restoration, and service to the public is being undermined. As a result, our health and the health of our wildlife and environment are at risk.

For all of these reasons, NRCM remains on code red. We are vigilant to these threats and are taking action in every direction we can. Your engagement is critical. Join the proud Maine history of environmental champions and stand up for this beautiful place that we all hold dear. Your voices are needed now more than ever.

Join our online Action Network to stay informed of actions as they happen. You'll learn when and what you can do to help. Sign up at our website today! www.nrcm.org

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Maine Environment is provided four times a year to more than 12,000 members and supporters of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. NRCM is a Maine-based nonprofit membership organization working to protect, conserve, and restore our land, air, wildlife, and water, now and for future generations. Membership starts at \$28/year. Join online at www.nrcm.org.
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Cynthia Hyde: Love for Maine's Environment Means Protecting It—Forever



Cynthia Hyde is thoughtful, optimistic, and alternately very hopeful and very serious about Maine's environmental future. She serves on the Board of Directors for the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and her curiosity and enthusiasm lift every meeting and event that we do together.

Recently, Cynthia

shared with me that she has named NRCM in her will. It is one of the many thoughtful and generous steps she has taken over the years to support NRCM's work. Cynthia and I talked about her life and what led her to her decision.

"I grew up in Lincoln, still a smallish town in the '50 and '60s, outside of Boston. Appreciating open land was part of our lives. Lincoln was and still is steeped in the tradition of land conservation, growing, I suppose, out of the legacy of Thoreau, who had lived and worked next door in Concord. "As young children, my brothers and I spent most of our time in the brook near our house—my brothers building dams, of course, while I played with the frogs and crawfish. Nature was and is our favorite remedy for all that ails. Also, my mother was brought up to respect all living creatures. She and my father taught us to take care of our animals and our things.

"I moved to Maine in 1977 in order to pursue a career as a painter in the fine arts. I was aware of the large community of painters in the mid-coast area, and as I already knew some of them through my parents, I figured I would start in Tenants Harbor, where my parents summered. This is when I first read the NRCM newsletters, as my father was a member. He cared deeply about Maine. (He had, as a teenager, spent summers sailing Down East with his best friend in a small cutter. It's hard to imagine now, but it was the early 1930s and they sailed without any supervision!) My father supported the efforts of NRCM, which, in hindsight, is interesting to me as he was fairly conservative in his politics."

Cynthia met her future husband, Jim Kinnealey, in 1979 at an art showing in the area. "Back then, there weren't many art galleries, so artists showed at the library, some restaurants, or coffee shops—and you kept running into the same people. Jim was also an artist, having moved to the mid-coast the year before me for the same reasons that I did." In 1982, they opened Caldbeck Gallery in Rockland. It remains one of the most important galleries in the mid-coast, featuring numerous artists with ties to Maine.

Despite Cynthia's strong commitment to the environment, another decade passed before she joined NRCM. "So many of Jim's and my friends have been NRCM board members, who kept us informed about what was going on. In the summer of 1992, [former NRCM board member] Cindy Lang urged us to celebrate our 40th birthdays by joining in on NRCM's rafting adventure down the East Branch of the Penobscot River (in recognition of the defeat of the

Big A Dam). On that day, as we approached the launching site, I found myself so frozen with fear that I could not move any part of my body! The power of the water was so overwhelming that I still get goose bumps thinking about it. Brownie [Carson] said, 'Well, you can take the bus and join us down river when we pull out for lunch, but . . . you'll miss all the fun!' I knew I did not want to 'miss' anything, so I climbed into the raft and the rest is history. Jim and I knew then that we wanted to support NRCM's important work.

"NRCM is the leading environmental organization when it comes to working in and with the Legislature. NRCM teaches Maine people how to be active in our own government, participating in the policy-making process. The staff is extraordinarily gifted, and they are housed right there, next door to our state government.

"Right now, I feel that NRCM's most important contribution is defending our state against the governor's efforts to steamroll over everything that guards our environment from exploitation.

"I will continue to support NRCM after I leave the board, and will now be able to support NRCM after I leave this earth! I very much hope, at a later date, to be able to increase the amount mentioned in my will, but for now, I wanted to make this firm commitment in hopes of encouraging others to do the same. I have no doubt that my dollars will be put to the very best use in protecting Maine's environment. It is important, of course, that I attend to annual giving, because I hope to be alive and well for many years to come. And there is still so much to do, especially now."

She doesn't want to miss all the fun. —Gretta Wark, Development Director

"I will continue to support NRCM after I leave the board, and will now be able to support NRCM after I leave this earth!"

How to Leave a Bequest

By including a bequest to the Natural Resources Council of Maine in your will, you help to ensure the health and beauty of our state for many years to come. There are several forms that this bequest can take. Please consult with your attorney or other advisor to determine the best form for your circumstances and goals. Here are two common examples:

A specific bequest:

"I devise and bequeath to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, a nonprofit corporation currently located at 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330, the sum of \$_____ (or, _____% of my estate) to be used to support the charitable activities of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for the protection of Maine's environment."

A residuary bequest:

"I devise and bequeath to the Natural Resources Council of Maine, a nonprofit corporation currently located at 3 Wade Street, Augusta, ME 04330, all (or specify _____%) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to be used to support the charitable activities of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for the protection of Maine's environment."



INTRODUCING THE WINTERGREEN SOCIETY

YOU can protect Maine's environment for years to come by including the Natural Resources Council of Maine in your estate plans. Your gift becomes a legacy of vibrant forests, healthy rivers, and diverse wildlife that will nurture future generations.

NRCM has created the Wintergreen Society to recognize and honor donors who have named NRCM in their estate plans, whether through bequests, gifts of life insurance or retirement plan designation, or as beneficiaries of life income gifts, such as charitable gift annuities or charitable remainder trusts.

Benefits of membership in the Wintergreen Society include:

- An annual reception and other events of interest
- Recognition in published materials (with your permission)
- A complimentary one-year membership to NRCM for the family, school, or library of your choice

We welcome gifts of all sizes. All gifts are confidential. To learn more about gift planning at NRCM and the Wintergreen Society, please contact Gretta J. Wark, senior director of development, at (207) 430-0108 (direct) or gwark@nrcm.org.

WHY WINTERGREEN? Wintergreen (*Gaultheria procumbens*) is Maine's official state herb. It retains its leaves through every season, providing sustenance for white-tailed deer and many other species of wildlife. The white, bell-shaped flowers of summer give way to red berries, also known as teaberries, in the fall and winter. For centuries, Native Americans have used wintergreen to relieve inflammation, strained muscles, and other ailments. The Wintergreen Society was named by Bill Houston of Kingfield, a Registered Maine Guide and board member of NRCM. The artwork was created by artist, activist, and long-time member Jon Luoma of Alna, in collaboration with graphic designer Lauren Mier of brightredbicycle in Hallowell.

NRCM Polar Dip & Dash a Big Success!



More than 100 polar dippers braved the chilly waters this year, with another 100 doing the dash!

A big "Thank you!" to all who dipped and dashed at NRCM's Polar Bear Dip & Dash December 31st. Nearly 200 people participated this year and helped us raise more than \$17,500 for our clean energy and efficiency work. Congratulations to this year's winners, and thanks to all who pledged them! View winners, photos, and more online at www.nrcm.org/2011dipdash.asp and mark your calendar for this year's Dip & Dash on December 31, 2012!

Polar Bear Dip & Dash Winners:

Fastest Male 5k Runner: Robert Ashby

Fastest Female 5k Runner: Emily Hughes (age 13!)

Youngest Polar Bear Cubs: Robin Hale Krull (age 8), Jesse Douvielle (age 8)

Eldest Polar Bears: Bob and Alix Pratt (age 74)



Best costume: Jordan Shaw (left) and Best Costume Winner Janine Palmer try to stay warm before their icy dip into Casco Bay. Janine made her own tutu and matching headpiece!

Best Polar Bear Costumes: Janine Palmer, Chace Campbell, and Laura Bowden Campbell

Top Overall Fundraiser: Beth Dimond, NRCM staff member (\$1,430)

Top Fundraiser (excludes NRCM staff, board, and families): Eloise Kelly (age 13!) (\$1137 raised)

2nd-place Fundraiser: Fortunat Mueller (\$975 raised)

3rd-place Fundraiser: Pam Grimshaw (\$480 raised)

Other Top Fundraisers: Will Kessler (\$450); Susan Cottle (\$410); Janet Klisiewicz (\$290); Cree Hale Krull (\$277.34); Robin and Sebastian Hale Krull (\$202.33 each); Fred Greenhalgh (\$120); Jonathan Milne (\$75); Rhian Waller (\$75)



Victoria Foley of 98.9 WCLZ radio races to the finish line for the 5K portion. Special thanks to WCLZ, our media sponsor for this great event!

Thank You, Dip & Dash Sponsors!



Warm thanks to Artist Malley Weber, who generously designed, created, and donated six beautiful polar bear mugs, and to all knitters, who knit a total of 15 polar bear hats as prizes: Nancy Berges, Leslie Burhoe, Lisa McNeil, Stephani Morancie, Nancy Noble, and Polly Peters.

NRCM Applauds New Federal Mercury Rules



The EPA announced in December new standards for power plant emissions that will significantly cut emissions of mercury, arsenic, dioxin, and other toxics from power plants. This is especially important for Maine people, given Maine's location downwind from coal-burning power plants to the south and west. Even in small amounts, pollutants are linked to cancer, heart disease, birth defects, and other health problems. Clean air standards like the mercury rule provide strong health protections

that each year could prevent 4,700 heart attacks and 130,000 asthma attacks among children—and save 11,000 lives. But, the power plant industry opposes these common sense protections and is spending millions of dollars to block them. President Obama deserves our thanks for standing up to the polluters and standing up for our kids. Please urge Maine Senators Snowe and Collins to support this protective Mercury and Air Toxics rule and to protect the health of Maine families by voting against all efforts to delay air pollution rules.

Green Tip of the Day

Perimeter Shopping. Shop at the perimeter of the grocery store. These foods are often the healthiest, freshest, and least packaged foods. For a green tip of the day every day, visit NRCM's website at www.nrcm.org.

Special Memberships Given November 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012

Honoraria and Memorial Gifts

Castine Garden Club in honor of Judy Berk
Lawrence T. and Jane K. Bennett in honor of Helen C. Black
Stephen L. Black in honor of Helen C. Black
Luther F. Black and Christina Wright in honor of Helen C. Black
Margaret Bruno in honor of Steve and Tina
Kelly Caiazza in honor of Edgar and Beverly Damon
Catharine W. Chapman in honor of Helen Black
Harry and Carol Dimopoulos in honor of Helen Chatfield Black
Matthew F. Whitlock in honor of David R Wilkins
Janice Anthony and David Greeley in memory of Doris P. Anthony
Dorothy J. Wilson in memory of Ursala Beldon

Gift Memberships

Doug and Charlotte Gregorie from Connie Higgason
Bill and Frankie Bell from Connie Higgason
Kevin Cohen Family from Diana D. Dunn
Chris and Kerry Irish from Diana D. Dunn
Amy Faunce from Jeanette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Doug Hayward from Jeanette Faunce and Jamie Oates
David Lafreniere from Jeanette Faunce and Jamie Oates
Susan Feller from Mary Williams
Trudy Sloan from Mary Williams
Richard Fontana and Carol Hubbard from Philip M. Hubbard
Richard Fontana and Carol Hubbard from Sylvia M. Hubbard
Miguel Martin from Louise S. Hoffman
Stephen B. and Peggy F. Shapiro by Joelle D. Wickens
David and Andrea Juers by Joelle D. Wickens
Stu and Una Whitcomb by Elizabeth Miller
Jonathan C. Minott by Elizabeth Miller
Erin McLaughlin from Mikal C. Crawford and John L. Lowe
Tim Maguire from Mary Beaudoin
Junco Nelson from Karen L. Oswell
Emarie Moroti from Karen L. Oswell
Mark L. Oswell from Karen L. Oswell
David Varney from Ronald B. Nissenbaum
The Whatley Family from Peter L. Nimkoff

New members of **PARTNERS IN MAINE'S FUTURE** Program, our monthly giving club. Members' automatic donations help us save on administrative costs, including paper. Special thanks to these members!

Caryl Everett
Ann Flewelling & Charles Read
Ethel K. & Don Higgins

Susan K. Kanor
Susy Kist
Patricia J. Luchetti

Jamie A. Riel
Sally B. Trice
Caleb Wallace



"My Maine This Week"

"When I took this photo, I was standing on the shore of First Roach Pond just below our camp, looking toward the White Cap range, about 40 minutes after sunrise on the morning of December 3, 2011. The Hundred Mile Wilderness section of the Appalachian Trail runs along the ridgeline."

—Wendy Weiger, Greenville Junction, Maine. Wendy's photo is part of our North Woods display that is currently being featured at Patagonia's Freeport store.

Send Us Your "My Maine This Week" Do you have a photograph of Maine you'd like to share? A poem? Send your submissions to beth@nrcm.org. Visit "My Maine This Week" online at www.nrcm.org.



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Follow us on Twitter! Search for NRCMenvironment.



Maine Citizens Want Clean Energy

We are very close to having enough signatures on a petition that would place a clean energy measure on the ballot—but we're not quite at the required number of 57,277. This means that we, and others in the Maine Citizens for Clean Energy coalition, will continue to collect signatures to qualify for a ballot in 2013. Thank you for your help! Going

for the 2012 ballot—with signatures due January 30th—was always a race against the clock, and it's amazing how well we did in such a short period! Our coalition went from zero to more than 56,000 certified signatures in less than three months. There has been fantastic enthusiasm from Maine people who signed the petitions and from more than 500 campaign volunteers who gathered signatures—all evidence of just how important this initiative is to curb air pollution and dependence on fossil fuels, and reduce Maine's energy costs over the long term by spurring investment in low-cost energy efficiency and clean, made-in-Maine renewables.



ALLISON CHILDS WELLS