

**Tony Giambro and Travis Ritchie**  
**2017 Conservation Leadership Award**

*For their outstanding citizen and business leadership on climate and energy issues*

Tony Giambro and Travis Ritchie, of the Paris Autobarn in South Paris, have been exemplary citizen activists and business leaders on many climate and energy issues over the past several years. Their leadership starts with the sustainability of their own “eco-friendly” garage. Paris Autobarn has set an example for other businesses not only for its use of solar and heat pumps but also for its electric vehicle charging station that is free and available to the public. Tony and Travis’s commitment doesn’t stop there; it includes multiple tours of citizen lobbying at the State House (including on NRCM’s Citizen Action Days). They have testified on solar and electric vehicle bills before the Legislature, and have engaged constructively (and successfully) with their own local lawmakers. They have both spoken at NRCM press conferences, especially on solar, in the last few years, and eagerly signed onto NRCM’s first formal business/organizational petition to the Maine Public Utilities Commission in support of net metering. They are effective and authentic advocates, because they are extremely passionate about their beliefs and technically knowledgeable about the issues. In 2017, while in the midst of ongoing support for solar policy, they quickly mobilized to oppose a bill to put new fees on electric vehicles, testifying and reaching out on their own to other electric vehicle owners to generate phone calls to committee members. For the last few years, they’ve taken a lead role in organizing an annual “ride and drive” in South Paris to help the public test drive the latest electric vehicles. It is a great honor to present Tony Giambro and Travis Ritchie with a 2017 NRCM Conservation Leadership Award.



**Natural Resources Council of Maine**

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