

Horace “Hoddy” Hildreth
2018 Conservation Leadership Award, Lifetime Achievement
*For more than four decades of public service in conservation
and as a business voice for the environment*

Horace “Hoddy” Hildreth has been one of the most valued, influential, and caring voices for the defense and protection of Maine’s environment over the past six decades. As a lawyer, legislator, activist, business leader, spokesperson, and philanthropist, Hoddy’s passion for Maine’s environment has helped protect our lakes, rivers, streams, forestlands, wild lands, and wildlife.

As a young attorney at the Portland firm of Pierce Atwood, Hoddy lobbied for several paper companies at the State House. He accepted that assignment on the condition that he did not represent these firms on their forestry practices, which he felt needed to improve. He took leave from Pierce Atwood when he was elected to the Maine Legislature in 1966 as a Republican representative from Cumberland County. At the time, Maine law placed few constraints on forestry practices, industrial pollution, municipal discharges, and development. Enter Hoddy and other environmental pioneers of that era, including his good friend and co-conspirator Harry Richardson. These lawmakers knew that Maine’s environmental laws had no teeth, and they were determined to change that. In short order, Hoddy helped craft and secure broad bipartisan support for landmark environmental laws that we depend on to this day as part of the safety net for Maine’s air, water, land, and wildlife.

When he left the Maine Legislature in 1968, Hoddy formed his own legal practice, and then turned his father’s company, Diversified Communications, into a highly successful global enterprise.

Unwilling to sit on the sidelines, Hoddy then decided to devote some of his time, talent, and resources to the success of several of Maine’s leading conservation organizations. As a board member, friend, and supporter, Hoddy was a partner and friend for organizations including the Conservation Law Foundation, Island Institute, Maine Audubon, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Conservation Voters, and The Nature Conservancy. He has been a generous supporter to NRCM and a dear friend in our work, and frequently authored opinion pieces, attended public hearings, and provided counsel when asked. Only the most stubborn ideologue (and I can think of a notable one) fails to listen when Hoddy adds his voice to the discussion, speaking not from the “left” or the “right” but rather from the rock solid middle. He speaks from a place we all recognize: a place of true, deep caring for Maine people and this state.

NRCM is honored to recognize Hoddy with this Lifetime Achievement Award for helping to keep inappropriate development out of the North Woods; pollution out of our rivers, lakes, and streams; and corrosive partisanship out of our public discourse.



Natural Resources Council of Maine
3 Wade Street • Augusta, Maine • 04330
(207) 622-3101 • nrcm@nrcm.org • www.nrcm.org