Dear Environment Maine members,

I wasn’t born in Maine, but spending incredible summers at my family’s camp on Beech Hill Pond throughout my childhood was enough for me to fall in love with the state, and determine that one day I’d return.

Unfortunately, the Maine I fell in love with is facing serious environmental problems. Summertime smog makes the air unsafe to breathe, and haze blocks the views of Acadia National Park. Despite progress in cleaning up our rivers and coastal waters, the Androscoggin, the Penobscot, Casco Bay and other waterways are still threatened by pollution. If developers have their way, the Moosehead Lake region could be eaten up by massive subdivisions, resorts and golf courses.

Fortunately, we are making progress on these problems.

In 2007, we helped secure a major victory for clean, renewable energy by requiring that Maine generate 10 percent more electricity from wind and solar by 2017.

On June 12, 2007, voters approved an $18.3 million bond for improving water quality and wastewater infrastructure, capping a successful two-year campaign by Environment Maine and the Maine Wastewater Control Association.

And since real estate developer Plum Creek requested to create its massive subdivisions around Moosehead Lake, we’ve mobilized the public and our more than 3,500 members to generate 10,000 petition signatures against the real estate behemoth’s plan.

I’ve had the opportunity to visit a lot of beautiful places in the United States and around the world, but it is Maine that has captured my heart. It’s great to know that this love is shared by so many like-minded people. Together, we can achieve great things for the environment we cherish.

Sincerely,

Matthew Davis

From Our Staff

Matthew Davis
Organizational Development Director

Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative Director

Rob Sargent
Federal Energy Program Director

Emily Figdor
Federal Global Warming Program Director
Clean Energy

Congress votes for clean energy

Taking a step in the right direction on clean energy, in January, the U.S. House approved the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007.

We strongly supported the measure, which would repeal $14 billion in tax breaks and subsidies for the oil industry and invest the money in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency. Reps. Tom Allen and Mike Michaud voted for the legislation. We’re working to pass the bill in the U.S. Senate as well.

The clean energy fund could be used to offer consumers incentives to purchase energy-efficient products, expand research and development, and extend tax credits to promote the development of renewable energy projects such as wind farms. Our staff helped write and promote the legislation, which was included in Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s “first 100 hours” agenda.
Global Warming

Progress in tackling global warming


In Maine, cars and light trucks accounted for more than half of the state’s increase in emissions from 1960 to 2001. Vehicle travel increased dramatically over the period, from 4,664 miles per person in 1960 to 11,210 miles in 2001, ranking Maine 15th in the country for most miles traveled.

Rail service reduces global warming pollution, getting cars and trucks off the road by providing an alternative to driving. Environment Maine has been working to maintain and expand the operation of the Downeaster train, which runs daily between Portland and Boston.

The Downeaster takes cars off the road, reducing global warming pollution.
Cutting power plant pollution

This year, Maine joined with nine other Northeast states in a regional program, called RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), that will reduce global warming pollution from power plants 10 percent by 2020.

Even in the face of efforts by power plant lobbyists to weaken the reductions, Environment Maine and other groups convinced Gov. Baldacci and the Legislature to adopt the program.

Emissions from power plants are the second-largest source of global warming pollution in Maine, and the largest nationwide. Maine’s law will make polluters pay for putting global warming emissions into the atmosphere, directing the payments to energy efficiency programs.

Congress catching on

Maine and a growing number of other states are ahead of Congress when it comes to action on global warming.

But momentum is now building around two bills in Congress: the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act in the Senate, introduced by Sens. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) and Barbara Boxer (Calif.), and the Safe Climate Act in the House, introduced by Rep. Henry Waxman (Calif.).

The bills would limit global warming pollution to levels that scientists say are needed to prevent the worst effects of global warming. Reps. Tom Allen and Mike Michaud have both signed on as co-sponsors of the House bill.
Preservation

Moosehead Lake still threatened by subdivisions

In the last year, Environment Maine continued its efforts to protect the Moosehead Lake area, an amazing stretch of wilderness full of recreational opportunities in secluded coves and extensive forests.

Unfortunately, an out-of-state real estate behemoth, Plum Creek, is attempting to convert the wilderness of Moosehead Lake into a tourist trap, threatening a tradition of forest management and public access to forests.

Plum Creek’s most recent request petitions the state to change zoning laws for over 22,000 acres of working forests currently open for recreation and wildlife habitat in order to build 975 house lots, 1050 resort units, 30 miles of lakefront building and hundreds of miles of new roads and utility wires.
Citizens speak out against proposal

This past summer, Environment Maine ran a citizen outreach campaign to educate over 30,000 Maine citizens about the proposed development at Moosehead Lake.

The decision to approve Plum Creek’s request rests with the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC), the agency in charge of maintaining the undeveloped nature of the unorganized territories.

Public input will play a key role in LURC’s decision, particularly in the months ahead, when it will hold public hearings on the request. Citizen involvement at several public scoping sessions in the last year has helped to demonstrate the enormous public backlash against the proposal.

Smaller development proposal denied

Last summer, LURC denied a proposal to put 70 house lots on the shores of Moosehead Lake because of inadequate provisions to maintain the natural character of the unusually pristine and visually prominent shore land.

This recent action by LURC is a positive signal in our efforts to protect Moosehead Lake. In its denial for the smaller proposal, LURC asserted that the plan did not fulfill the agency’s requirement that new development be located near existing development and be of similar type, scale and intensity.

Perhaps the most powerful statement made by LURC in its decision was that “rezoning is not an entitlement,” and that the developer had “purchased this land with a full understanding of . . . restrictions on development.”
Mixed results on ocean preservation in Congress

Last summer, Congress passed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 2006, which will limit over-fishing and require decisions on managing fisheries to be guided by science and not industry self-interest.

Environment Maine worked with fishermen and oceans groups to strengthen the bill with the help of Sen. Olympia Snowe and Rep. Tom Allen.

Unfortunately, Congress, under pressure from the oil and gas industries, narrowly voted to allow oil and gas drilling off America’s coasts. Reps. Tom Allen and Mike Michaud voted against this dangerous proposal. Although the legislation had limits on drilling, it is a dramatic departure from the decades-long moratorium on offshore drilling.
One of the most unpopular environmental policies of the Bush administration suffered a blow last September, when U.S. District Judge Elizabeth Laporte reinstated protections for nearly 60 million acres of pristine national forest land.

The “Roadless Rule” protects iconic forests that have no roads from developers, logging trucks and mining operations, such as the White Mountain National Forest.

When the Bush administration repealed the rule in 2001, it passed the buck to governors. Soon after, Environment Maine Research & Policy Center convinced Gov. Baldacci to pledge to protect these wild forests and to file an amicus brief for the lawsuit. While the court’s decision is a victory, the Bush administration has filed an appeal.
Environment Maine Supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Maine and the Environment Maine Research & Policy Center. Thousands of Maine citizens supported Environment Maine by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2007. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization’s research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.
Financial Information

Charts reflect combined financial information for the environmental work conducted by Environment Maine, the Environment Maine Research & Policy Center and Environment Maine’s citizen outreach programs.

**FY07 Income**
- Citizen Contributions 80%
- Foundation Grants 20%

**FY07 Expenses**
- Program 77%
- Fundraising 15%
- Administrative 8%

**FY07 Programs**
- Global Warming and Energy Solutions 55%
- Preservation, Clean Water and Air 44%
- Other 1%