

GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governor Names Maine Quality of Place Council Members

AUGUSTA – Governor John E. Baldacci today named the public members of the Maine Quality of Place Council created last week by Executive Order. The Order to Create a Maine Quality of Place Jobs and Investment Strategy established the Council to guide and support a State Quality of Place investment strategy, and to coordinate investment strategies across State departments and regional councils.

The Maine Quality of Place Council is comprised of eleven members including five State executives, five public members and one representative of regional councils.

The Governor is appointing the following members:

- Richard Barringer, Portland, to serve as chair. Professor, USM's Muskie School of Public Service; Senior Fellow, New England Environmental Finance Center.
- Eleanor Kinney, Bremen. Board President, Natural Resources Council of Maine; Board Member, GrowSmart Maine.
- Edward Barrett, Bangor. Bangor City Manager.
- Robin Zinchuk, Bethel. Executive Director, Bethel Chamber of Commerce; Maine Tourism Commission.
- Matthew Polstein, Millinocket. President, New England Outdoor Center; Maine Tourism Commission; Millinocket town councilor.
- Robert Thompson, Litchfield, to serve as the regional council/economic development district representative. Androscoggin Valley Council of Governments Executive Director.

"I am pleased that these individuals who have long been dedicated to economic development will be adding their significant expertise to promoting the statewide Quality of Place initiative," said Governor Baldacci. "They will be working to enhance the strategy to use our outstanding assets and qualities to grow Maine's economy now and into the future. I thank them for their commitment to this initiative and their willingness to serve the public good."

The other members, as named in the Executive Order, are:

- The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or designee;
- The Commissioner of Transportation or designee;
- The Commissioner of Conservation or designee;
- The Director of State Planning or designee; and

- The Director of the Maine Arts Commission or designee.

The State Planning Office will convene regional government and economic leaders to promote the Maine Quality of Place investment strategy no later than November 1, 2008.

More information about Maine's Quality of Place can be found at
<http://www.maine.gov/spo/specialprojects/qualityofplace/index.htm>