

## **Gov. John Baldacci's Remarks to the Quality of Place Council, December 4, 2007**

\* I WANT TO PERSONALLY THANK THE 17 MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL FROM ALL OVER MAINE WHO GAVE THEIR ENERGY TO THIS IMPORTANT EFFORT.

\* WHEN I APPOINTED THE COUNCIL LAST SPRING, I KNEW MAINE'S QUALITY OF PLACE WAS IMPORTANT TO OUR FUTURE.

\* SINCE THEN, ITS IMPORTANCE HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO ME IN SEVERAL WAYS.

\* I SAW THE BEAUTY OF MAINE FROM MT. KATAHDIN'S SUMMIT, AND SAW THAT MILLINOCKET IS THE GATEWAY TO A PARK THAT ATTRACTS 80,000 VISITORS EACH YEAR.

\* I TRAVELED TO ASIA ON A TRADE MISSION AND MET HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS WHO WANT TO MAKE MAINE THEIR HOME IN RETIREMENT.

\* I WELCOMED ATHENA HEALTH TO BELFAST AND LEARNED THAT THE MAINE COAST AND OUR EXCELLENT LABORFORCE HELPED LOCK IN THE CEO'S BUSINESS LOCATION DECISION.

\* I KNOW THAT THE QUALITY OF THIS PLACE AND OUR PEOPLE IS MAINE'S CALLING CARD TO THE WORLD.

\* THE BROOKINGS REPORT TOLD US THREE THINGS ABOUT OUR STATE:

\* WE MUST STREAMLINE GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS,

\* WE MUST INVEST IN R & D, AND

\* WE MUST PRESERVE MAINE'S NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.

\* MY ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN RETHINKING GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS TO MAKE IT SMARTER, LEANER, FASTER

\* IN STATE ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS,

\* IN EDUCATION,

- \* IN CORRECTIONS,
- \* WITH MORE TO COME!
- \* MAINE PEOPLE SUPPORTED OUR PROPOSED R & D BOND.
- \* A LARGE MAJORITY VOTED TO REPLENISH THE LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE FUNDS.
- \* NOW WITH THE QUALITY OF PLACE COUNCIL'S REPORT, WE CAN ADD TO OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT.
- \* MAINE'S ECONOMIC CHALLENGE IS CHANGING.
- \* WE NEED NEW, HIGH- GROWTH BUSINESSES FOR GOOD-PAYING JOBS FOR OUR PEOPLE.
- \* WE NEED TO INVEST IN NEW WAYS IN OUR TRADITIONAL INDUSTRIES - SUCH AS TOURISM -TO REAP GREATER ECONOMIC REWARDS.
- \* THE BUSINESSES GROWING IN TODAY'S ECONOMY NEED HIGHLY SKILLED WORKERS. THOSE WORKERS WANT THE COMMUNITY AND NATURAL AMENITIES MAINE HAS TO OFFER.
- \* WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT MAINE - OUR TREES, LAKES, MOUNTAINS, TOWNS, OUR HISTORY - IS ALSO OUR CHIEF ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE.
- \* NOW WE MUST ORGANIZE OURSELVES
- \* TO PROTECT WHAT IS IMPORTANT,
- \* TO INVEST IN WHAT IS IMPORTANT.
- \* THANK YOU DICK, MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, AND STAFF -
- \* YOUR WORK OFFERS A BLUEPRINT TO
- \* MAKE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MORE EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT,
- \* PRESERVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN MAINE,
- \* AND PRESENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAINE PEOPLE.