



## Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition 2013 Common Environmental Agenda

Maine's extraordinary environment forms the backdrop for who we are and what we value as individuals and as a state. Our jobs, our health, our time with family and friends, our community values, and our identity as Maine people all have their roots in our beautiful environment. When we work together to protect it, Maine people and businesses can thrive.



### **Further Protect Pregnant Women and Children from Toxic Chemicals**

*Sponsored by Senator Seth Goodall*

Children's health is threatened by unsafe chemicals in everyday household products. Maine named 49 Chemicals of High Concern, proven through strong scientific evidence to cause cancer, reproductive problems, and hormone disruption. But no action has been proposed to reduce exposure to these chemicals – until now. The bill will identify which products contain the 49 "worst of the worst" chemicals and set priorities for action to get those chemicals out of household products that Maine children encounter every day.



### **Lower Energy Costs Through Energy Efficiency** *Sponsored by Senator Jim Boyle*

As USM economist Charlie Colgan says, "Perhaps the single most effective action to enhance Maine's business climate and economic competitiveness is to aggressively increase the energy efficiency of the Maine economy." This bill would provide much-needed resources and support for Maine's energy efficiency programs. Investing in energy efficiency would reduce Maine's dependence on oil, keep millions of dollars in Maine's economy and help grow clean energy jobs in Maine.



### **Open the St. Croix River to River Herring** *Sponsored by Representative Madonna Soctomah*

This bill would reopen fish passage to alewives, also known as river herring, at two dams on the St. Croix River. Since the fish passages were closed in 1995, the alewife population has declined from more than 2.6 million fish to less than a thousand within a few years. Alewives are a critical food source for salmon, striped bass, bluefish, tuna, cod and haddock. Allowing alewives to access their native spawning habitat is a key to bringing back Maine's once prosperous ground fishing industry.



### **Protect Water Quality and Avoid Taxpayer Clean-up Costs from Metallic Mineral Mines**

*Sponsored by Representative Jeff McCabe*

This bill amends the mining law passed last year to make it more protective of Maine's waters and fairer to Maine taxpayers. It strengthens water quality standards and provides safeguards to prevent Maine taxpayers from paying cleanup costs of abandoned mines. The bill requires reasonable assurance that a sulfide mine, if started, can be operated without polluting.



### **Ensure No Weakening of Maine's Water, Land, and Wildlife Protections**

Maine will face many challenges and opportunities in the months and years to come. Every step we take must maintain our forward-thinking approach to natural resource stewardship and reflect the core values that Maine people hold dear. There is a clear path forward, with bridges to the future for protecting the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that Maine's environment provides to us.

The logo for the Environmental Priorities Coalition features the text "Environmental Priorities Coalition" in white on a blue background. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic of three green mountains of varying heights, with a light blue wave-like shape at the base representing water.

**Environmental  
Priorities  
Coalition**

## **A Trail Map to Prosperity**

Maine's beautiful environment is the foundation of our prosperity and our way of life. It is part of our history and part of our future. It is the basis for how we work, how we relax, and how we sustain ourselves and our families.

***We are counting on Maine policymakers to take the important steps needed to make wise use of Maine's extraordinary environment so Maine people and Maine's economy can thrive.***

Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 26 environmental, conservation, and public health organizations representing over 100,000 members who want to protect the good health, good jobs and quality of life that our environment provides for all of us.

Appalachian Mountain Club  
Atlantic Salmon Federation  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Environmental Health Strategy Center  
Environment Maine  
ENE  
Friends of Casco Bay  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maine Congress of Lake Associations  
Maine Conservation Alliance  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited  
Maine Interfaith Power & Light  
Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association  
Maine People's Alliance  
Maine Rivers  
Natural Resources Council of Maine  
Physicians for Social Responsibility, Maine Chapter  
Product Policy Institute of Maine  
RESTORE: The North Woods  
Sierra Club, Maine Chapter  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Toxics Action Center

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