



# Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition

## 2012 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.



### **Clean Energy Citizen Initiative: *Maine's Future Prosperity is Powered by Clean Energy***

Maine is heavily reliant on fossil fuels, like oil, coal, and gas, resulting in a cycle of pollution and cost that puts Maine's people, economy, and environment at risk. The Clean Energy Citizen Initiative will help transition Maine away from imported fossil fuels and put our energy dollars to work here in Maine, supporting businesses, creating jobs, and reducing pollution.



### **Forest, Farm, and Fish Bond: *Protect Maine's Natural Resources***

The Land for Maine's Future program has a history of broad support and an outstanding record of success in protecting Maine's natural legacy. The Forest, Farm, and Fish Bond invests in Land for Maine's Future. It supports Maine's natural resource-based economy and creates important new conservation and economic opportunities.



### **Maine's North Woods : *Conserve Maine's Natural Legacy for Future Generations by Ensuring the Integrity of the Land Use Regulation Commission***

The North Woods of Maine are a treasure that is central to Maine's economy, identity, and way of life. But without careful governing, planning, and regulatory tools, the North Woods are at risk. While the Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) study committee wisely backed away from abolishing LURC, some of the task force's proposals could significantly weaken key protections for Maine's North Woods. We must not let that happen.



### **Inland Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat Rule: *Protect Maine's Water, Land, and Wildlife***

Protecting inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat is essential to supporting the good health, good jobs, and quality of life that Maine's environment provides to all of us. The Board of Environmental Protection has developed a rule that has satisfied sportsmen, the Maine DEP, and the environmental community. While the rule could be stronger, it is a reasonable compromise and we need to give it time to work, not weaken it further.



### **'Takings' Legislation: *Prevent the Undermining of Maine's Core Environmental Protections***

Maine's land use laws are designed to protect our water, land, and wildlife; the character of Maine communities; public health and safety; and the value of property for all Mainers. 'Takings' legislation is a back door way to undermine nearly every current or future land use law. Because state agencies would be forced to choose between paying landowners to obey the law or waiving the protective regulation, 'takings' bills create a legal and fiscal morass for states, with potential huge costs for taxpayers. They have been broadly rejected nationwide. 'Takings' bills are simply a bad idea that is out of step with Maine people and Maine values.



### **Clean Elections: *Ensure Fair and Effective Policymaking***

Clean Elections means a cleaner and safer environment. The Clean Elections system enjoys broad support and a tremendous record of success - it is fair and effective policymaking at its best. As the result of a court ruling, the Maine Clean Elections system must be amended in order to remain viable and working as it was intended. Doing nothing will dramatically weaken the law and allow more special interest money to influence Maine policymaking. The Maine Ethics Commission has recommended a carefully-crafted "re-qualifying option" that will strengthen Maine's Clean Election Law.

# A Trail Map to Prosperity

Maine's beautiful environment is the foundation of our prosperity and our way of life. It's part of our history and part of our future. It's 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 Environmental Priorities Coalition

*Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition is a partnership of 27 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.*

American Lung Association of Maine  
Appalachian Mountain Club  
Atlantic Salmon Federation  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
Conservation Law Foundation  
Environmental Health Strategy Center  
Environment Maine  
Environment Northeast  
Friends of Casco Bay  
Maine Audubon  
Maine Center for Economic Policy  
Maine Congress of Lake Associations  
Maine Council of Churches  
Maine Council of Trout Unlimited  
Maine Conservation Alliance  
Maine Interfaith Power and 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  
The Ocean Conservancy  
The Wilderness Society  
Toxics Action Center

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