

Alliance for ENERGY & ECONOMIC GROWTH

Energy to secure America's future.

Maine

October 13, 2009
The Hilton Garden Inn
Auburn, Maine

State Co-Sponsor: Maine State Chamber of Commerce

The Maine Climate Change Dialogue took place in Auburn. The program was titled “Federal Cap and Trade Legislation: Challenges and Opportunities for Maine’s *Business Climate*.” Chris Jackson, Senior Government Affairs Specialist for the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, introduced himself, gave a brief overview of how the program would unfold, and then introduced Maine State Chamber of Commerce President. Mr. Connors welcomed everyone and spoke about the need for a dialogue on the issue of climate change.

Chris Jackson introduced the speakers. Ross Eisenberg, Environment and Energy Counsel for the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, spoke first. Eisenberg’s remarks focused on the substance of H.R. 2454, its relative strengths and weaknesses, an analysis of the voting in the House and the bill’s probable future in the Senate. He also focused on the “sales pitch” for H.R. 2454 – that it will create jobs, transition to a green economy, cost a postage stamp per day. He evaluated the relative veracity of these statements, and compared them to provisions contained in the draft Senate bill.

Commissioner David Littell of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection spoke next. The stated legislative mandate for the Maine DEP “directs DEP to prevent, abate and control the pollution of the air, water and land.” Commissioner Littell emphasized that the Maine DEP bears in mind the needs and concerns of businesses in the state when it is doing its mandated duty. That said, he spoke about the need for strong climate change legislation; spoke about the success the state of Maine has had along with the other states in New England and the mid-Atlantic participating in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Commissioner Littell also spoke about the past success the federal government had in its implementation of a cap and trade system to control and reduce acid rain emissions, concluding that cap and trade as a method for reducing emissions had a proven history of success.

Dr. Margo Thorning, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist for the American Council for Capital Formation (ACCF) spoke next. Dr. Thorning discussed the study that ACCF undertook for the National Association of Manufacturers, discussing H.R. 2454 and the assumptions underlying the legislation. She discussed how these assumptions differed from the realities of our energy production and constraints, both nationally and internationally. As well, Dr. Thorning made the point that enacting H.R. 2454 would hinder the U.S. economy without impacting climate change effectively if the same stringent laws did not govern developing countries such as India and China, and telling the audience that the EPA's Lisa Jackson has admitted that the U.S. acting alone will make no difference in climate change.

There was a short break following the three presentations, after which Chris Jackson moderated a panel of speakers: Ross Eisenberg, David Littell and Dr. Thorning, as well as Anthony Buxton, Esq., Co-Chair of PretiFlaherty's Climate Strategy Group and a sponsor of part of the day's events. Mr. Buxton spoke for a few minutes about the legal work he is doing for clients concerning climate change in specific and environmental issues in general. The audience was able to ask questions of the panelists from 11:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.

At 11:55 a.m., Chris Jackson thanked everyone for coming and made concluding remarks. The meeting adjourned at noon.



Participants, from left to right: Chris Jackson, Anthony Buxton, Dana Connors, Dr. Margo Thorning, David Littell, and Ross Eisenberg

Maine State Senator and gubernatorial candidate Peter Mills attended the dialogue.

Companies & Organizations in Attendance

Acadia Environmental Technology
Adams & Fogg Oil Equipment Co.
Albin, Randall & Bennett, CPAs
Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce
Arundel Machine
Bernstein Shur
ITEX Barter
Central Maine Power Company
CRoux Computing
Dead River Company
Downeast Energy & Building Supply
Eaton Peabody
Fairchild Semiconductor Corporation
Frantasia Productions
H. A. Mapes, Inc.
Hannaford Bros. Company
Harriman Associates
Huhtamaki Foodservice, Inc.
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Maine State Legislature
Maine Oil Dealers Association
Maine Pulp & Paper Association
Maine Turnpike Authority
MacMillan & Donnelly, Inc.
National Semiconductor
New England Public Affairs
Payroll Management, Inc.
Pierce Atwood Consulting
PretiFlaherty, LLC
Prime Tanning – Hartland
Robbins Lumber, Inc.
Sevee & Maher Engineers, Inc.
S. W. Cole Engineering, Inc.
Southern Aroostook Development Corporation
St. Germain & Associates, Inc.
U. S. Chamber of Commerce – Northeast Regional Office
Verrill Dana, LLP
WahlcoMetroflex
Willis of Northern New England
Wright Express Corporation