

Dear Readers,

With a tidal shoreline of 3,478 miles and over 4,000 islands, Maine's connection to and dependence on the ocean defines our history and will determine our future. Indeed, when people think of Maine, their first thoughts are often of the ocean: of rocky coasts and sandy beaches, of seafood and fishermen, of whales and windjammers. Recently, however, much important thinking about the ocean has turned to difficult questions: What is happening to our ocean? How is it changing? What will its future look like? How are those who make their living from the ocean affected by these changes? And is Maine still "Maine" if the diverse opportunities the ocean has provided in the past are lost?

It is our pleasure to have put together this *Maine Policy Review* special issue, *Our Shared Ocean*. We have brought together a remarkable set of authors to provide many different perspectives on policy issues related to the ocean. This exciting issue takes on ocean-related topics and asks us all to think deeply about them. This kind of in-depth expert information will help us anticipate challenges and prepare for the future.

Much of this issue is about Maine's opportunity to become a global leader in identifying emerging ocean issues and in working with others to find ways to address them. The various articles describe the challenges and demonstrate ways Mainers have begun to identify possible strategies for addressing difficult problems in effective ways.

This special issue on Maine's ocean would not have been possible without major funding from the Broad Reach Fund. We also need to recognize the tireless efforts of this issue's Guest Editor, Deborah Felder.

We hope you enjoy reading these articles as much as we have!

—The Editors



My Creed . . .

is that public service must be more than doing a job efficiently and honestly. It must be a complete dedication to the people and to the nation with full recognition that every human being is entitled to courtesy and consideration, that constructive criticism is not only to be expected but sought, that smears are not only to be expected but fought, that honor is to be earned but not bought.

Margaret Chase Smith