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Letter from the Editor

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Dear Readers,

As we celebrate *Maine Policy Review's* 20th anniversary in 2012, it is fitting that this issue is typical of others published over the years: it covers a wide range of topics that are currently important in the state and that have been of interest throughout the past 20 years. Several authors tackle the important topic of education. Linda Silka, Karen Hutchins, Meredith Jones, and Chris Rector discuss how people from different disciplines and with different perspectives might work together to improve educational outcomes. Janet Fairman and Christine Donis-Keller describe what worked and what did not work in Maine's mandated school district consolidation initiated in 2007. Energy has also been an important focus since *Maine Policy Review's* founding. Articles by James Acheson (offshore wind power) and by Caroline L. Noblet, Mario F. Teisl, Katherine H. Farrow, and Jonathan Rubin (cellulosic ethanol) discuss consumers' knowledge, behavior, and attitudes about these new sources of energy in Maine. David Vail and Harold Daniel's article reviews a perennial subject in Maine's economy—tourism; they present results of a survey on travelers' willingness to pay for a "quality-labeled" North Woods tourism experience. Another topic also featured in earlier issues of *Maine Policy Review* is the state's demographic challenges. In the Margaret Chase Smith Essay, Ed Cervone makes some recommendations for attracting a larger, younger and more diverse population to the state to combat the problem of Maine's aging demographics. Sandy Butler presents findings from several studies on home care workers in Maine and the important role they play in allowing older Mainers to "age in place." Healthcare is also represented in this issue, in the article by David E. Harris, Suzanne Roy, and Sarah Mayberry, which discusses bans on outdoor smoking in Maine. Our issue concludes with Luisa Deprez's and Amy Fried's interview with Theda Skocpol about the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN), an organization that helps university-based researchers get involved in public policy debates and make their research more widely accessible, followed by the first-place-prize-winning essay from the Margaret Chase Smith Library essay contest for high school students by Derek Sargent.

We are excited that this year marks not just *Maine Policy Review's* 20th anniversary, but also a move to a new online "presence" through the University of Maine Digital Commons, where both current and past issues are now available (digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mpr/). *Maine Policy Review* will now be much more "visible" to users of Internet search engines and also will benefit from being part of an extensive collection of quality academic research.

Best,


