

Maine Policy Review

Volume 25 | Issue 1

2016

Editor's Letter

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Recommended Citation

Acheson, Ann. "Editor's Letter." *Maine Policy Review* 25.1 (2016) : 5 -5, <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mpr/vol25/iss1/2>.

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Dear Readers,

As I write this, it is a beautiful, sunny spring day, and I'm reminded again of the trite (but often true) marketing slogan—"Maine, the way life should be." Articles in this issue of *Maine Policy Review* remind us that we still have a ways to go if life is to be the way it should be for all of us, now and in future generations. Authors tackle some of the thorniest problems facing the state and suggest ways for policymakers to resolve them. Lead author Cindy Isenhour and her coauthors take up the topic of waste management and provide a comprehensive overview of "best practice" from other states as a guide for Maine in addressing this "mountainous" (pun intended) problem. Ron and Luisa Deprez give us a commentary on the same topic, focusing in particular on equity concerns.

The Margaret Chase Smith Essay features the three top prize-winning essays in the Margaret Chase Library's annual contest for high school seniors; the topic for 2015 was immigration, yet another difficult issue in both the United States and Maine. Robert Glover is also concerned with immigration in his article. He suggests that making the state a more welcoming destination for immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees might help reverse the state's demographic decline.

On a somber note, Marcella Sorg, Margaret Greenwald, and Jamie Wren provide an updated analysis of trends in the patterns of drug overdoses; the state continues to see deaths due to opioid pharmaceuticals, but there is also a resurgence of deaths from the illicit drugs heroin and non-pharmaceutical fentanyl. Maine is among the top three states in the percentage increase in overdose deaths related to these illicit drugs. Another hot topic in Maine is the proposal to establish a North Woods national park. The article by Ryunosuke Matsuura, Sahan T. M. Dissanayake, and Andrew Meyer presents results of a survey of preferences of out-of-state visitors, which found support for establishing both a national park and a national recreation area. Ron Phillips provides readers with an overview of "impact investing" and community development entities, noting that both share the goal of creating healthy and sustainable communities. The issue concludes with a bipartisan commentary by Sharon Tisher and Peter Mills urging Congressional action on perhaps the most significant problem facing humanity—climate change—stemming from interviews with Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King, and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree about their 2015 climate-related initiatives.

Best,

