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Editor's Letter

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Dear Readers,

Transitions have been on my mind lately: the transition in roles at *Maine Policy Review*, as Ann Acheson steps down as editor, and I take over that role, with Linda Silka as executive editor; the transitions in the world of printed journals and the needs of our readers; and, of course, the transitions in presidential administrations. Periods of transition can be a bit scary, but they also offer opportunities for positive change.

Here at *MPR*, we are navigating the changing world of information delivery. From last summer's reader survey, we learned that most of our readers enjoy the printed version, but would like increased electronic access to article summaries, or for the journal to be accessible on their phones. Survey results gave us much to consider: shorter articles, a broader reach, more graphics, more writing by young people, increased interactivity. Linda Silka and I, together with leadership at the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center, are looking at ways to address these issues. We are proud of *MPR*'s long history of thoughtful coverage of policy issues and want to keep the journal relevant and useful in future policy discussions. But we need your help. In this issue, you will find a remittance envelope, and we hope you will use it to show your support for the *MPR*.

This issue starts with the Margaret Chase Smith Essay by Senator Angus King, taken from a presentation on climate change that he gave at the University of Maine in November 2016. If you would like to watch the actual presentation, it is available here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pP8ELt4xagA&feature=youtu.be>). Serendipitously, we received Dave Canarie's commentary on the Arctic Council a couple of weeks after Senator King's speech. These pieces, which briefly address trade issues, are followed by Catherine Reilly deLutio's and Philip Trostel's article on the potential effects in Maine of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

As we were working on this issue during the recent election, it is fitting that we have James Melcher's article on statewide bond referenda, followed by a commentary by L. Sandy Maisel on the 2016 presidential election. The Margaret Chase Smith Library high school essay contest also had an election-year theme, and we present the top three winners. An article on the approaches Maine municipalities have taken to reduce single-use plastic bags and food ware by Travis Wagner and a commentary on state efforts to improve Mainer's financial literacy by David Leach round out the issue.

In this transition issue, you will also find the first of Executive Editor Linda Silka's columns—this one sharing reflections on lessons learned by four Maine policy leaders: Aram Calhoun, Andy Coburn, Carla Dickstein, and Evan Richert. Linda has other columns and features planned for future issues.

I would like to end my first editor's letter with sincere thanks to Ann Acheson for all she taught me during the years I was the managing editor and her continuing support and guidance this past fall. Her help made my transition a lot easier.

Best,

Barbara

