

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TO: Local Media Contacts**  
**FROM: Sunrise County Economic Council**  
**DATE: February 4, 2011**  
**RE: SCEC Participates in Maine Nonprofit Day at the State House**

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MACHIAS – The Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) participated in the Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP) Maine Nonprofit Day at the State House January 27 along with eleven other nonprofits from across the state. SCEC, which initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County, used the opportunity to educate legislators about its mission and work Down East.

“It was a great opportunity for legislators to learn more about the positive things going on in Washington County’s economy right now,” SCEC Executive Director Harold Clossey said. “Many of the legislators who stopped by our booth were on a recent bus tour Down East, and got to see a few examples of how Washington County is taking the bull by the horns and reinventing its own economy. SCEC used our time at the State House to reinforce that message and show people just how much Downeasters are doing to turn things around.”

Senate President Kevin Raye (Perry), a past member of SCEC’s Board of Directors, said that the economic development group’s presence at the Hall of Flags helped bring attention to job and business growth efforts in some of Maine’s most rural regions, and also served as “a shining example” of the value nonprofits can bring to their regions.

“I am pleased that SCEC participated in Maine Nonprofit Day at the State House,” Raye said. “SCEC is a vital driving force in economic development in Washington County and a shining example of the value a non-profit agency can bring to a community.”

Raye and Washington County representatives David Burns, Joyce Maker, Howard McFadden, Madonna Soctomah, and Dianne Tilton stopped by SCEC’s display, speaking with staff about projects and initiatives currently underway. SCEC staff’s including Clossey, Assistant Director Jennifer Peters, Communications Manager Will Tuell, and TIF Administrator Diane Smith-Halkett were also joined by the Council’s Treasurer, Shirley Erickson of Machiasport.

“It was an honor to represent the Board of Directors,” Erickson said “and a testament to the hard work SCEC has done to earn such statewide recognition. There’s a lot going on in Washington County, and that message came across loud and clear. Staff was enthusiastic, engaging, and representative of the get things done attitude that makes Washington County unique.”

SCEC Board of Directors and staff thank our area legislators for continued support of the Council, Washington County’s business community and its many resource partners and collaborators.

“We’re very fortunate to have excellent representation in Augusta,” he said. “I’d like to thank Senate President Raye, Representatives Burns, Maker, McFadden, Soctomah, and Tilton for their warm reception at the Hall of Flags, and for the invitation to their weekly caucus. Our Washington County delegation is open, accessible, and willing to work with anyone whose number one priority is seeing our region put people to work. That can only benefit Down East Maine in the long-run. SCEC looks forward to working with the 125<sup>th</sup> Legislature and the Washington County delegation on economic and community development issues which impact our region.”

For more information about SCEC, visit [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org), contact staff at 255-0983 or by email at [scec@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:scec@sunrisecounty.org). SCEC can also be found on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/sunrisecounty](http://www.facebook.com/sunrisecounty).