

We the people of Maine...

THE MAINE HERITAGE POLICY CENTER

Post Office Box 7829 Portland, ME 04112

207.321.2550 • info@mainepolicy.org

# THE BIG STORY

## The Maine WIRE

The big story for the first quarter of 2012 was the impact made by The Maine Wire, MHPC's online news service.

Launched in December 2011, The Maine Wire has since broken several major stories, forcing the state's media to finally cover long-standing problems in state government. Stories included:

- A hard-hitting series on accountability at the Maine State Housing Authority and the resignation of executive director **Dale McCormick**.
- The questions raised by the purchase of MaineToday Media by billionaire **S. Donald Sussman**, the husband of **U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree**.
- Breaking news that U.S. Senate candidate **Angus King** divested himself of Independence Wind while it was part of a Congressional probe into inappropriate federal loan guarantees.

For more, visit [www.TheMaineWire.com](http://www.TheMaineWire.com).

## "Higher Taxes? Not with Maine's High Tax Burden!"

Maine's private sector percent of personal income was a dismal 63.9 percent in 2010—the 12th smallest private sector in the country.

This matters because a one-percentage point increase in the size of the private sector yields an average increase in household income of \$2,561.

## Steele joins MHPC

The Maine Heritage Policy Center is pleased to announce that it has selected 25-year newspaper veteran Peter A. Steele of Auburn to serve as Communications Director.

Steele and his wife founded *Twin City TIMES*, a weekly newspaper in L-A.



## REPORTS



Reports authored by  
J. Scott Moody, chief  
economist for MHPC

## "Maine Workers Moving to "Right-to-Work" States with Stronger Economies"

From 2003 to 2008 more than 24,000 Mainers—representing \$800 million in income—fled to "Right-to-Work" states, where workers cannot be forced to join or financially support a labor union.

## MHPC EVENTS

**"Shaking Up Maine's News Cycle: Introducing The Maine Wire."** CEO Lance Dutson reprised his popular presentation about The Maine Wire to more than 50 people in Auburn.

**"Maine on the Front Lines in the Fight Against Obama Care."** Michael Cannon, director of health policy studies at the CATO Institute, spoke on the most important health policy issue facing Maine: ObamaCare.

**"Green Energy and the Ballot Box: How Maine's Renewable Mandate Could Drive The Economy (Into a Ditch)"** Christopher O'Neil of O'Neil Policy Consulting, Inc. detailed the intricacies of energy policy and why the renewable mandate referendum makes no sense for Maine.

**"Introducing Maine's First Small Business Advocate."** Jay Martin, the first Small Business Advocate for the State of Maine and the United States, explained how he is able defend and protect small businesses in Maine.

*free enterprise; limited, constitutional government; individual freedom*

## Maine blocks Obamacare

Thanks in large part to MHPC, Obamacare cannot move forward in Maine! Joel Allumbaugh, director of MHPC's Center for Health Reform Initiatives, played a key role in blocking a major component of Obamacare, called a "health insurance exchange," which would have locked Mainers into very high costs for insurance.

Joel's work in educating the legislature's Insurance and Financial Services Committee to vote against LD 1498 halted creation of the health insurance exchange. This effort effectively keeps Obamacare out of Maine.

## EXPERTS SPEAK AT DIGITAL LEARNING CONFERENCE



National education experts and Maine Education Commissioner Stephen Bowen joined MHPC for an all-day conference on technology in education, titled "Developing Student Success Through Online Learning: Inform, Inspire, and Connect."

Speakers included Rick Ogsoton (third from left), founder and CEO of Carpe Diem Schools, a tuition-free Arizona public school using a "hybrid" program with on-site teachers and computer-assisted instruction.

He is pictured with MHPC staff: Sam Adolphsen, director of the Center for Open Government; Amanda Clark, development associate and research associate; Lance Dutson, CEO; Heather Noyes, director of development; and Peter A. Steele, director of communications.



*Joe Coletti (center) from the State Policy Network spoke on what other conservative think tanks around the country are doing. He is pictured with Lance Dutson, CEO of MHPC, and Heather Noyes, director of development for MHPC.*