



September 26, 2012

For Immediate Release:

## **Maine Renewable Energy Association Endorses Angus King in the US Senate Race**

Today, the Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA) announces its endorsement of Governor Angus S. King, Jr. in the race for the United States Senate.

“After careful consideration of the positions of candidates, the MREA Board of Directors is happy to endorse Governor Angus King for the United States Senate,” said MREA Deputy Director Andrea Nadeau.

“Governor King’s knowledge and experience in the energy industry was of critical importance to our Board, and we believe he represents Maine’s best chance to inject a common sense approach to the political debate in Washington, D.C.,” explained Nadeau. “Angus has worked in the energy field for decades; all the way back to his days of working to develop a biomass plant in Greenville, and his work as general counsel for Swift River/Hafslund, a company focused on renewable power in Maine.”

The members of the MREA sustainably manufacture electricity from biomass, hydropower, wind, waste-to-energy, and tidal – the companies own and operate more than 1,000 megawatts of clean electricity. Over the last twelve years the renewable energy industry has invested more than \$2 billion in Maine facilities, and pay nearly \$20 million annually in property taxes. The industry has been one of the few bright spots in an otherwise down economy.

According to a Maine Public Utilities Commission report from 2011, “Review of RPS Requirements and Compliance in Maine” Prepared by London Economics International LLC, by continuing its Renewable Portfolio Standard program Maine would experience the creation of 11,700 jobs, \$1.14 billion in new investment, and see the Gross State Product grow by 2% over the next five years.<sup>1</sup>

“As the owner and operator of hydropower projects here in Maine, we believe Angus is the right person for the job. We need people like him with his background of problem solving and experience to help protect and grow our industry and economy here in Maine,” said Scott Hall, Vice President Environmental and Business Services for Black Bear Hydro LLC.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.maine.gov/tools/whatsnew/attach.php?id=349454&an=1>

“Angus recognized early on that our tidal project was an important and valuable component of revitalizing the local economy in Washington County, and the state at-large. We need Angus to take his rational and forward-thinking approach to the United States Senate for the benefit of all the people of Maine,” said Chris Sauer, President and CEO of Ocean Renewable Power Company.

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Black Bear Hydro LLC –

Black Bear Hydro Partners LLC owns and operates hydroelectric generation plant. The company was incorporated in 2009 and is based in Milford, Maine.

Ocean Renewable Power Company -- <http://orpc.co/>

Since 2004, ORPC has been hard at work developing breakthrough technology and eco-conscious projects that use ocean and river currents to produce clean, predictable electricity to power our homes and businesses while protecting our environment. We believe that our ocean and river power systems not only can, but must, be designed to preserve the world’s marine ecosystems. They should provide renewable supplies of clean energy that are both reliable and affordable. They should be compatible with other marine industries, and should create quality, sustainable jobs and other economic opportunities in their surrounding communities.