



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maine Renewable Energy Association Endorses Michaud in Race for Governor

Augusta—The Maine Renewable Energy Association today endorsed U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud in the race for governor.

“U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud is the best candidate to lead Maine and ensure we work together to maximize our potential to be a leader in renewable energy development,” said Jeremy Payne, Executive Director of the Maine Renewable Energy Association. “He has a proven track record of fighting for renewable energy investments and he has a clear vision and plan for how to reduce energy costs, create jobs and grow Maine’s renewable energy sector by investing in wind, tidal, biomass, hydro and solar power, which is why we are proud to endorse him in his race for governor.”

“Clean energy has been a real driving force in Maine’s otherwise flagging economy for the past few years – offering rural and service center communities tremendous economic and employment opportunities. For example, MREA members employ more than 2,500 Maine residents, have invested over \$2 billion in the last 15 years, pay more than \$20 million annually in property taxes, and help protect our environment by displacing harmful emissions from fossil fuel power plants. But let there be no doubt, these companies require a stable and predictable investment climate, and we believe Mike Michaud is the best candidate to offer that type of pro-business environment,” added Payne.

Michaud has a long history of supporting renewable energy development. In Congress he was able to secure funding for tidal power development off the coast of Eastport. In part because of his work with the University of Maine and Ocean Renewable Power Company, Maine now has the first tidal power project hooked up to the electric grid in the United States. Michaud has also worked with the delegation to support major investments in the University of Maine’s offshore wind pilot project.

In his MAINE MADE business and investment plan, Michaud proposed several bold and detailed initiatives to make Maine a leader in renewable energy development, including a Maine

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solar power initiative and the creation of the Maine Ocean Energy Center of Excellence that would partner with the private sector to cement Maine's place as a leader in off-shore renewable energy production.

"I'm proud to earn the endorsement of the Maine Renewable Energy Association," Michaud said. "My administration will make energy efficiency and clean energy development a top priority. Maine has the potential to create thousands of jobs and secure billions of dollars in private sector investments in the renewable energy sector. But to do it we need a leader who has a clear vision for how to partner with the private sector to grow Maine's renewable energy sector and a commitment to bringing Democrats, Republicans and independents together to turn that vision into action."

About MREA:

The Maine Renewable Energy Association (MREA) is an Augusta-based not-for-profit association of renewable power producers, suppliers, and supporters of the renewable power industry in Maine. MREA leads the local and statewide policy debate on renewable energy generation in Maine, and works to ensure its efforts are united with those of its member companies.

Our power producer members sustainably manufacture electricity from hydro, biomass, wind, tidal, and waste-to-energy. MREA represents the renewable power industry at the State Legislature and before the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

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