



Excerpt from Governor John Baldacci's State of the State Address, January 9 2008

In Support of Historic Tax Credit Legislation

We all understand the Maine economy is in a time of dramatic, even historic, change.

And we all understand that our future economic success will be built upon the foundation of our people and the special qualities that define our neighborhoods, towns and our state.

People are drawn to Maine. We have what they're looking for and what's missing from their everyday lives.

Look at tourism, one of the bedrocks of Maine's economy.

Last year alone, almost 42 million people visited our State.

They come for our natural beauty, our people and our vibrant historical and cultural sites.

Last year, voters showed that they understand that. They approved significant investments in conservation and in our environment. Soon, that money will be put to work.

Economic prosperity demands that we invest in our workforce, in our open landscapes, and in our historic downtowns.

Even now, we cannot become so focused on today that we sacrifice the investments that will make us stronger tomorrow.

When I visit places like Lewiston and Auburn, Biddeford and Saco and Waterville, I see the enormous potential for redevelopment. The Hathaway Creative Center in Waterville is a prime example of what is possible.

Tom Niemann is here tonight. Thank you very much.

That's why I am supporting an historic rehabilitation tax credit. For a modest investment, we can attract millions of dollars worth of growth, which will bring new jobs, new revenues, affordable housing and new life to our cities and towns.

