

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



A monthly column to inform ABC members about national and local issues impacting Maine's construction industry.

June/July 2010



ABC's 2010 Chairman - Doug Newman of Newman Concrete Services in Richmond.

While many of us are taking advantage of the Maine's short summer to put work in place and maybe even enjoy a little outdoor recreation, the political arm of ABC has been hard at work. The November elections will be upon us before we know it and the stakes have never been higher.

In the months since the last election, we have seen an unprecedented expansion of government. The resulting avalanche of new taxes and

regulations threatens not only the economic recovery but the future prosperity of our nation.

Never in our lifetimes has political change been more important—and ABC is gearing up to do everything we can to effect that change.

Last week we held a very successful fundraiser for our political action committee, ABCPAC, with special guest Howie Carr. The event was well attended and Howie was a big hit. Even in the face of a dismal economy and grave concerns about their future, ABC members gave generously in support of ABC's political efforts.

Our Government and Regulatory Affairs Committee has been busy interviewing candidates to determine which of them share our free enterprise ideals and have the campaign organization required to win in November.

For Governor, the committee recommended to the board of directors that ABC endorse Paul LePage. Paul has a great personal story of a young man who started out homeless and through his own hard work rose to become the CEO of Marden's, a great Maine business. Paul is the mayor of Waterville, where he has demonstrated the ability to win and govern in a heavily democratic area. He is a believer in free enterprise and limited government, has a committed volunteer base and the right message.

In the 1st Congressional District the committee voted to endorse Dean Scontras in his effort to unseat first-term Rep. Chellie Pingree. Dean is making his second run for this seat and is a proven campaigner. His efforts to focus attention on the crushing burden that our national debt will place on future generations are gaining him support every day.

In Maine's 2nd CD, the committee strongly supported Jason Levesque of Lewiston over the incumbent Rep. Mike Michaud. Though he is a relative newcomer to politics, Jason impressed the committee with his grasp of both the issues and the mechanics of

running a campaign. Jason is a veteran and a small business owner who knows first hand how difficult it is to build a business in Maine

Both Dean and Jason are aligned with ABC philosophically and would be far superior to the incumbents who have voted lockstep with Nancy Pelosi and the Democratic majority. Both Michaud and Pingree voted for the unfolding disaster that is health care reform and have supported the financial recklessness that has resulted in a \$20 trillion federal deficit and huge new burdens on the productive class in America.

In addition to supporting free enterprise candidates for the Blaine House and Congress, ABC will be active in Maine Legislative races. There are many great candidates running for the House and the Senate this time around—including two ABC members—and given the current political climate, we may have the best chance in a generation to finally elect majorities who understand the power of a positive business climate to improve prosperity for all Mainers.

With a little luck and a lot of hard work, November will provide an opportunity to finally reverse 30 years of building a welfare state in favor of providing the kind of economic empowerment that Maine people deserve.

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Despite great candidates and favorable political winds, we won't get the results we so desperately hope for in November unless we get engaged and do the hard

work that will be required. The other side is just as convinced they are right as we are and the union war chests are flush with cash. They will have people in the streets trying to preserve their power at all costs.

So as we enjoy these wonderful Maine summer days, let's all prepare ourselves for the battle ahead. Set aside some time to get involved and please consider a contribution to our PAC. We only ask for financial support once every two years. Contact Kathleen at ABC's office if you want more information about how you can get involved.

Let's make sure that we don't wake up on the morning of November 3rd and realize we not only wasted a unique opportunity to change the direction of Maine and the nation, but that we face two more years like the last two. Our businesses can't afford that and more importantly our nation can't either.

Doug Newman, Chairman - ABC Board of Directors
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www.scontras2010.com
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