



For Immediate Release
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MERI releases report on Maine Legislature

Maine approaching the “tipping point” according to trend data

AUGUSTA, Maine—The Maine Economic Research Institute’s (MERI) *2006 Roll Call: A Report on the 122nd Maine State Legislature*—Maine’s only comprehensive profile of our 186 state legislators, their districts, and their voting records presented with a business perspective—will soon to be available to the public at www.fixmaine.com

This report provides objective, non-partisan research of Maine’s Legislature for the purpose of promoting more informed participation in state government. A MERI **Economic Index** is provided for each of Maine’s 186 legislators.

“Democracy and our system of government only work when people engage in the process,” said Edward McLaughlin, MERI President & CEO, “Here is information that will help people better understand Maine’s most critical challenge...a stronger economy, and the quality jobs it supports.”

Based on comprehensive surveys of Maine employers, key economic legislation is identified and used to guide all MERI research—including MERI’s Economic Index ratings for each state legislator. Ratings are determined based upon performance. “We listen to what they say,” said McLaughlin, “but we measure what they do. Accountability is a good thing...for everyone.”

The 2006 Roll Call is the 7th time this highly accurate methodology has been applied with the Maine State Legislature. Trend information suggests that both legislators and voters have become increasingly aware of Maine’s economic challenges.

“The economy is not a political issue—it’s everyone’s issue,” McLaughlin adds. “Our research suggests that Maine is at a tipping point where real economic improvement is being demanded by voters, and more legislators are responding to these demands.” During the 2005-2006 legislative sessions 48% of state legislators voted in ways that were helpful to strengthening the economy. The immediate challenge for Maine citizens is convincing at least 51% of their state representatives that improving Maine’s economy should be their most important goal.

MERI’s report will be published and available to MERI subscribers later this week. More information is available on the MERI website at www.fixmaine.com

The Maine Economic Research Institute (MERI) is an independent, private, not-for-profit corporation governed by a board of directors who are business owners, CEOs, and senior staff representing a diverse group of Maine companies. Incorporated in 1999, MERI is dedicated to improving Maine’s economy and business environment by providing objective information to enhance economic policy-making. Committed to a healthy economy and quality jobs, MERI conducts nonpartisan research and tracks legislator performance on critical business issues. Please visit www.fixmaine.com.

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