

Maine Public Utilities Commission

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 26, 2009

MPUC Appoints New Director of Energy Programs

Former Lawmaker John Brautigam to Steer Efficiency Maine

AUGUSTA, Maine - The Maine Public Utilities Commission is pleased to announce the appointment of former Representative John Brautigam of Falmouth to be Director of the Energy Programs Division.

“Maine and the nation are entering an era of remarkable activity toward improved energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources,” said Sharon M. Reishus, who chairs the Commission. “Mr. Brautigam’s enthusiasm and expertise in energy issues will help the state continue to lead in providing cost-effective energy programs.”

The Division includes the State Energy Program, which administers federal renewable energy grants, and Efficiency Maine, which is a statewide effort to help Mainers and Maine businesses reduce energy costs and improve Maine’s environment.

Chairman Reishus noted that Brautigam has a distinguished career in public service, policy and law, and as a former member of the Legislature’s Joint Committee on Utilities and Energy, he is deeply versed in the field.

Brautigam said he was ready to hit the ground running. “Efficiency Maine has already delivered programs that will save Mainers more than \$300 million in avoided electricity costs, while the State Energy Program continues to foster alternative energy solutions for Maine,” Brautigam said. “We can build on that foundation to significantly increase these programs’ contributions to Maine’s energy security and economic well-being.”

As a lawmaker Brautigam introduced, on Governor John Baldacci’s behalf, a bill which created a state incentive for the installation of solar energy systems by Maine residents and business - a program which has proven highly popular. He also introduced legislation which required the Commission to examine the costs and benefits of Maine’s continued participation in the regional energy grid.

Brautigam, 48, is a graduate of the Stanford University Law School, where he edited the Stanford Law Review. He has served in private practice, with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Maine. A complete resume is available on request.

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The Maine Public Utilities Commission is committed to ensuring that consumers have access to safe and reliable service for public utilities and that the rates for these utilities are just and reasonable. PUC programs include Maine Enhanced 911 Service, Dig Safe, and Efficiency Maine.

To arrange an interview with Chairman Reishus, Commissioner Vendean Vafiades or Commissioner Jack Cashman, please contact Fred Bever at 207.287.6141 or by e-mail at fred.bever@maine.gov. The Commission's website, www.maine.gov/mpuc may be accessed through the Maine School and Library Network at all public libraries in Maine.