

**From:** wbecker@mainepolicy.org [mailto:wbecker@mainepolicy.org]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 02, 2006 3:33 PM

**To:** REDACTED

**Subject:** Give a Gift to MHPC Today



August 2, 2006

Dear Friend,

What an exciting and busy time for our State. 2006 promises to be an important transitional year for the state's economy, and The Maine Heritage Policy Center (MHPC) is working every day throughout the summer to ensure future economic hope and opportunity for all Maine people.

For nearly four years, MHPC has been able to provide research and analysis on fiscal, health care, and education issues - thanks to the support of so many Maine people.

Your ongoing support has been tremendously beneficial, and is needed today more than ever as we move forward. [Will you please consider a gift to our Summer Annual Fund Drive today?](#)

This year, the Taxpayer Bill of Rights is obviously one of our top priorities. MHPC wrote the language for this bill nearly two years ago, and we have spent the last 18 months informing Maine people about the need for such a responsible and effective measure.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights:

- Establishes annual growth targets for state and local government spending, tied to the growth in the economy
- Allows for majority voter approval for exceeding those growth targets
- Allows for majority voter approval for most tax or fee increases
- Encourages government to lower tax rates in order to match tax revenue with government spending
- Rebates money to taxpayers if government revenue exceeds voter-approved spending
- Creates budget stabilization funds at both the state and local level

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights is a reasonable and effective way for Maine to begin repairing its lagging economy. It paves the way for lower taxes and a more favorable business climate, attracting new jobs, strengthening the economy and increasing incomes.

The net result will be to expand the economic pie - securing existing jobs, while keeping young people, families, and retirees in Maine. It will also create an environment where fewer people will need to rely on government assistance programs, thus relieving at least some of the pressure on state and local government. It is, in short, smart growth for our public and private sectors.

Now more than ever, your support is needed to help us educate Maine people about the opportunity that could be found through a reasonable and effective measure. Unfortunately, there are those who are actively misleading the public and distorting the facts.

However, thanks to your support and generosity, we will continue to provide truthful and credible analysis, information, and commentary about Maine's competitive position and how we can improve it. It's great when the facts are on our side!

Please consider a gift today to support the important work of The Maine Heritage Policy Center.

[You can give a gift in support of MHPC today by clicking here to make a secure donation online through our website.](#)

Or, mail your contribution to: The Maine Heritage Policy Center; P.O. Box 7829; Portland, Maine 04112.

Thank you. We are truly grateful for your consideration and for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "B" at the beginning.

Bill Becker  
President & CEO  
The Maine Heritage Policy Center