

July 2026

The voice of Maine business

Dear Chamber Members,

As we celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, it is worth reflecting on the remarkable idea at the heart of America's founding—a government that derives its strength and legitimacy from the people it serves. That vision has endured because each generation has been willing to do the work of citizenship, strengthen their communities, and invest in the future.

Here in Maine, that legacy runs deep. More than a year before the Declaration of Independence was signed, ordinary citizens in Machias made an extraordinary choice. Refusing to accept British authority, they captured the armed schooner *Margaretta* in what is widely recognized as the first naval battle of the American Revolution. Their courage and conviction demonstrated that the ideals of liberty and self-government were not confined to Independence Hall—they were truly born in the towns and harbors of what would become our state.

Today, that same spirit lives on in Maine's businesses, entrepreneurs, and community leaders. While the challenges we face are different from those of 250 years ago, the qualities that sustain a free and prosperous society—initiative, resilience, collaboration, and civic responsibility—remain the same. At the Maine State Chamber of Commerce, we are proud to advance that tradition by promoting civic engagement, bipartisan problem-solving, and respectful dialogue. We believe strong businesses, vibrant communities, and effective public policy are inseparable. When people come together in good faith to solve problems and create opportunity, Maine succeeds.

America's 250th anniversary is more than a celebration of our history. It is an invitation to consider the next 250 years. Our responsibility is not simply to commemorate the past, but to ensure that another generation is invested in the enduring American idea—that liberty, opportunity, and self-government flourish when citizens are engaged and institutions remain strong. We must also remain a nation that welcomes all who are committed to the ideals enshrined in our Constitution and willing to contribute to our communities, our economy, and our shared future.

Thank you for your leadership, your investment in Maine, and your continued commitment to strengthening our state's economy and communities. Happy 250!

Sincerely,



Patrick Woodcock
President and CEO
Maine State Chamber of Commerce