



Senator Ned Claxton
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Dear Friends and Residents of Poland,

It is a true honor to represent you in the Maine Senate. When I was elected, I wanted to put party politics aside and make meaningful change for the people of Maine. As I reflect on my first year as your State Senator, I'm proud of what we were able to accomplish in Augusta.

The tone was set from the start by Senate President Troy Jackson, who broke tradition and chose to seat Republicans and Democrats side-by-side in the Senate Chamber, instead of being divided by a partisan aisle. This small but significant gesture kick-started the process of finding common ground to solve the issues that affect everyday Mainers. My seatmate, Marianne Moore, a Republican from Calais, became one of my closest friends in the State House. Through our discussions, my perspective and understanding of certain issues grew, and our friendship only helped to further break down partisan divides.

Together, Democrats and Republicans passed a bipartisan budget which provides \$130 million in property tax relief, \$111 million in funding for K-12 education, and works to restore revenue sharing to municipalities, all without raising taxes. We unanimously passed a package of four bills to lower the cost of prescription medication, one of the biggest challenges Mainers are facing today. We also worked to increase access to high-quality, affordable health care, and prevented insurance companies from discriminating against Mainers with preexisting conditions.

Although we don't always agree on all the issues, I have made it a priority to keep my ears open and to have civil, thoughtful discussions with all my colleagues regardless of party. I have also prioritized making myself available to all of my constituents. I regularly hold office hours in the community, and my phone line is always open. If you'd like to share an idea, opinion, or just want to make your voice heard, don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached by phone at (207) 287-1515, or by email at Ned.Claxton@legislature.maine.gov. I am able to do my best work in Augusta when folks like you share your thoughts with me regularly.

Sincerely,

Ned Claxton
State Senator