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## **FAME CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS AT ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND APPROVES LOAN FOR LINCOLN MILL**

*Board approves \$1 million loan to help retain 175 jobs at Lincoln mill*

AUGUSTA — The Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) celebrated another year of successful business and educational partnerships at its annual meeting and awards event, *Showcase Maine*, which was held on November 13, 2014, at Portland’s Holiday Inn By The Bay.

The evening featured a reception, including a showcase of exhibits by Maine businesses and educational organizations that partner with FAME; a dinner and awards presentation; and a keynote speech by Bull Moose founder Brett Wickard.

“FAME enjoyed celebrating the successes of the past year with our partners in Maine’s business and higher education communities,” said Bruce Wagner, FAME’s Chief Executive Officer. “We were pleased to recognize key partners with awards and to unveil our future plans for growth as we seek to enhance and expand Maine’s economy.”

This year’s award recipients included:

- **St. Croix Tissue, Inc. (*Business at Work for Maine Award*):** St. Croix Tissue, Inc. was recognized for its innovation and adaptability over the years, which is particularly noteworthy considering the challenges facing Maine’s historic papermaking industry. In September of this year, FAME and St. Croix Tissue, Inc. finalized a deal to have FAME issue a \$7.5 million bond through FAME’s Major Business Expansion Program. The financing, which benefits the mill in Baileyville, as well as the surrounding economy in Washington County, will help St. Croix and a related company, Woodland Pulp, LLC, create and retain approximately 400 Maine jobs.
- **Harold Alfond College Challenge (*Education at Work for Maine Award*):** The Harold Alfond College Challenge (HACC) is a first-of-its-kind legacy gift to help Maine families save for and aspire to higher education. The program awards a \$500 grant for qualified higher education expenses to eligible Maine children. More than \$20 million has been invested for over 40,000 Maine children since the program’s inception. In 2014, the grant became more broadly available, with the Alfond Scholarship Foundation now making the \$500 grant (plus any earnings) available to all children born as Maine residents.
- **Camden National Bank (*Financial Institution of the Year Award*):** Camden National Bank was honored with an award for a fifth time. Over the past year, Camden National partnered with FAME on 67 loans totaling over \$13.8 million. This in turn helped to create 209 Maine jobs and retain an additional 657 jobs. The bank also is committed to the communities it serves, supporting a variety of business, community, and non-profit organizations.

- **Hon. Brian Langley of Hancock County (*Dirigo Legislative Champion Award*):** Langley, a state senator representing Hancock County, is also a chef, entrepreneur, and former educator. He serves on the Legislature’s Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Sen. Langley has been an active supporter of the Bridge Year Program, a collaborative effort involving the faculty and teamwork of Hermon High School; the United Technologies Center in Bangor; Eastern Maine Community College; and the University of Maine.

Prior to the dinner and awards ceremony, the FAME Board met for its monthly meeting and approved financing for two Maine businesses involved in the natural resources sector: North Atlantic, Inc., a Portland-based wholesale importer and distributor of frozen seafood; and Lincoln Paper & Tissue, LLC, a Lincoln-based manufacturer of commodity and specialty tissue products. The board approved the renewal of loan insurance on a Bangor Savings Bank \$5 million line of credit for North Atlantic. FAME has supported the company’s financing needs since 2009, and the board’s action will help the company retain seven jobs. The board also approved a \$1 million direct loan to Lincoln Paper & Tissue for working capital needs following a fire and flood at the facility in recent years. FAME’s actions will help the mill retain 175 direct jobs and hundreds more indirect jobs in the local economy.

“Lincoln Paper & Tissue greatly appreciates FAME’s swift assistance and commitment to the success of the mill,” stated Keith Van Scotter, President & CEO. “FAME’s efforts and commitment to the region will go a long way toward helping to retain good-paying jobs in the area and to a bright future for the facility.”

Finally, the board also elected new officers for the 2015 year: Raymond Nowak was re-elected to serve as chair; James Violette, Jr. was elected as vice-chair; and Cheri Walker was re-elected as treasurer.

FAME is a quasi-independent state agency that provides innovative financial solutions to help Maine citizens pursue business and educational opportunities. To learn more about FAME, please visit [www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com).

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