



State of Maine Homeland Security Conference Committee
at the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy
University of Maine
5715 Coburn Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5715

NEWS RELEASE

Date:

Release Date:

Contact: Muriel Mosher - [207-623-0680/murielm@mepmsi.org](mailto:murielm@mepmsi.org)

For Immediate Release

Contact: Andrea Hofelich

February 24, 2004

202-224-4571

Senator Collins Secures Participation of Dept. of Homeland Security Undersecretary Hutchinson at First-Ever Maine Homeland Security Conference

Senator Collins and Governor Baldacci Join Together for May Conference

WASHINGTON, DC—Senate Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Susan Collins (R-ME) today announced that she has secured a commitment from Asa Hutchinson, the Undersecretary for Border and Transportation Security, to take part in the first-ever State of Maine Homeland Security Conference.

The conference, scheduled for May 14 and conceived of and organized by Senator Collins, Governor John Baldacci, and the University of Maine, will assist Maine small businesses and first responders in learning about procurement opportunities and obtaining federal contracts and funding from the Department of Homeland Security. In addition to Undersecretary Hutchinson, representatives from DHS' small business and grant-making offices are expected to make presentations.

“When he comes to Maine, Undersecretary Hutchinson will learn firsthand that Maine's businesses and first responders stand ready to assist the Department in its homeland security efforts. I am pleased that he has accepted my invitation, and I commend him for giving Mainers an opportunity to discuss their concerns and capabilities with the new Department,” said Senator Collins, whose committee has jurisdiction over DHS. She added, “Too often, small businesses find it difficult to navigate the federal contracting process. This conference will help them to understand where to turn first for the information they need.”

“I am pleased to be hosting the Homeland Security Conference with Senator Collins this spring,” stated Governor John E. Baldacci. “Small businesses and first responders throughout Maine will gain direct access to key personnel from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and various state resources.”

About the Conference: The State of Maine Homeland Security Conference is presented by Governor John Baldacci and Senator Susan Collins, and produced by the University of Maine and the Maine Small Business Development Centers, in association with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Maine's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), Maine Market Development Center (MDC) and the University of Maine's Office of the Vice President for Research. The conference will bring together leaders in homeland security policy with small businesses, first responders, municipalities, suppliers and service providers that will benefit Maine businesses and its citizens. The conference will take place on May 14th and will be held at the Orono campus of the University of Maine. For more information, visit <http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/>.



State of Maine Homeland Security Conference Committee
at the Margaret Chase Smith Center for Public Policy
University of Maine
5715 Coburn Hall
Orono, Maine 04469-5715

“The conference will enable a free flow of information on contracting, procurement, and security issues, benefiting all Maine citizens and communities. I appreciate the leadership of Senator Collins, as Chair of the Senate Governmental Affairs, on this important endeavor,” added Governor Baldacci.

The conference, geared toward small businesses, first responders, and state and local governments, is expected to feature four different seminar tracks for participants. The seminars include the following:

- Small Business and Procurement
- Small Business/Department of Homeland Security Supply Chain Management
- First Responders/Transportation Security
- Research and Development

In addition, exhibition booths will provide valuable information for homeland security products, as well as contracting and procurement opportunities within private, non-profit, and governmental agencies.

The conference is being produced by the University of Maine and the Maine Small Business Development Centers in association with the Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Maine Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the Maine Market Development Center, and the University of Maine Office of the Vice President for Research.

For more information about the conference Muriel Mosher - [207-623-0680](tel:207-623-0680)/murielm@mepmsi.org.

About the Conference: The State of Maine Homeland Security Conference is presented by Governor John Baldacci and Senator Susan Collins, and produced by the University of Maine and the Maine Small Business Development Centers, in association with the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Maine’s Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP), Maine Market Development Center (MDC) and the University of Maine’s Office of the Vice President for Research. The conference will bring together leaders in homeland security policy with small businesses, first responders, municipalities, suppliers and service providers that will benefit Maine businesses and its citizens. The conference will take place on May 14th and will be held at the Orono campus of the University of Maine. For more information, visit <http://www.umaine.edu/mcsc/>.