

Thursday, September 11, 2014

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***Maine State Chamber hosts second annual
“Taste of Maine” reception in Washington, D.C.
on Tuesday, September 9***

***Senators Collins and King attended the popular event
showcasing Maine’s rich culinary culture***

AUGUSTA, MAINE – On Tuesday, September 9, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., more than 20 Maine vendors featuring more than 50 Maine-made products participated in the Maine State Chamber of Commerce’s second annual “Taste of Maine” reception on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. More than 400 people attended the reception, which showcased an impressive array of the many outstanding culinary products Maine has to offer.

More than 23 Maine farms, specialty food companies, breweries, distilleries and vineyards showcased their products this year at the “Taste of Maine,” which was held in the historic Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building. Featured speakers were Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King. Several other Members of Congress and guests also attended to sample Maine-made foods and beverages.

“The Taste of Maine event gave us a great opportunity to showcase our product for our Maine senators, their staffs and colleagues,” said Stuart Jablon, President & COO of Backyard Farms in Madison. “It also allowed us the chance to see and taste what our colleagues from around our great state are doing and to share our love for food with them.”

“It was with great pleasure that we showcased Bixby Bars at the Taste of Maine 2014,” said Kate McAleer, founder of Bixby & Co. in Rockland. “The Kennedy Caucus Room was full of energy and excitement on the unique products from Maine.”

“The second annual ‘Taste of Maine’ event showcasing Maine’s outstanding culinary products again this year was outstanding,” said Dana Connors, President of the Maine State Chamber of Commerce. “‘Made in Maine’ products are the envy of the world and the Maine State Chamber of Commerce is always eager to help get the word out about the abundance of our great state. We look forward to working with Senators Collins and King again next year to put on an even bigger event in our nation’s capital.”

The 2014 “Taste of Maine” reception was sponsored in part by the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, the National Restaurant Association and the Maine Restaurant Association.

Featured 2014 “Taste of Maine” Vendors:

- Bixby & Co.
- Maine Root Soda
- Bluebird Family Ranch
- W.A. Bean & Sons
- Backyard Farms
- Grandy Oats Granola
- Little Lad's Bakery
- Boothbay Craft Brewery
- D.L. Geary's Brewing Company
- Allagash Brewing
- Shipyard Brewing
- Wilbur's of Maine Chocolate Confections
- Gifford's Ice Cream
- Cellar Door Winery
- Wicked Whoopies
- Oats Any Time
- Cold River Vodka
- Sullivan Harbor Farm Smokehouse
- True North Salmon Company
- Luke’s Lobster
- LobsterME
- Penobscot McCrum
- Maine Aquaculture Association
- Maine Potato Board
- Maine Lobster Marketing Collaborative

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About the Maine State Chamber of Commerce...

The Maine State Chamber of Commerce represents a diverse network of 5,000 businesses statewide and advocates on behalf of their interests before the Legislature and regulatory agencies and through conferences, seminars, and affiliated programs. Through its OneVoice program and collaboration with local and regional chambers throughout the state, the Maine State Chamber represents thousands of businesses with fewer than 10 employees. Its Grassroots Action Network works to involve members and their employees in the legislative process through outreach campaigns.

About the National Coalition for Capital ...

The National Coalition for Capital (NCFC) is a non-profit, nationwide coalition of leaders supporting economic development and job creation through long-term access to capital for small businesses and entrepreneurs. To learn more about NCFC, visit www.nationalcoalitionforcapital.org.