Monday, Aug. 16

7:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Conference Registration
8–9:30 a.m. Concurrent Committee/Task Force Breakfast Meetings
  • Agriculture and Rural Policy Committee: USDA’s Role in Empowering the Economy
  • Education Committee: Race to the Top
  • Economic Stimulus Funding, National Care Curriculum Standards
  • Environment/Energy Committee Meeting
  • Health Committee Meeting
  • ERC Canada-U.S. Relations Committee: The State of U.S.-Canada Trade Relations in the Age of Obama
  • Transportation Policy Committee Meeting
8–10 a.m. Criminal Justice Committee: Declining Crime: What’s Driving this Trend and What’s the Role of Policing Strategies in Sustaining It?
8–9:30 a.m. Concurrent Committee/Task Force Breakfast Meetings
9:45–10 a.m. Welcoming Session
10 a.m.–Noon Governors/Premiers Panel: Energizing the Northeast Economy
12:15–2 p.m. Luncheon Keynote: John Zogby
  The Mood of America: Summer 2010
2:30–4:30 p.m. Concurrent Policy Forums
  • Agriculture and Rural Policy Committee: State Responses to EPA Chesapeake Bay Can States Take Ownership of the Sustainability and Animal Welfare Issues?
  • General Justice Committee: Hot Topics: Adam Walsh, Solitary Confinement, Corrections Spending, Re-entry Programming, Health Care Reform
  • Education Committee: Recruitment of International Students for Expansion and Improvement of Local Economies and Educational Performance at Northeastern Colleges and Universities
  • Energy/Environment Committee: Advancing the Clean Energy Economy in the Northeast
  • Health Committee: Patient-Centered Medical Homes: Coordinating Care to Improve Health
  • ERC Canada-U.S. Relations Committee: Infrastructure, Goods Movement and Jobs—Pros and Cons of the Greater Region
  • Transportation Committee: Transportation Finance and Bridges and Bridge Systems
4:45–5:45 p.m. ELA and Toll Fellows Reception
6–7:30 PM Delegates Reception

Repowering the Northeast: 130 at CSG/ERC 50th Annual Meeting
Focus is Innovative Jobs, Alternative Energy, Economy

States and regions shouldn’t expect a return to their pre-recession fiscal levels for quite some time.
That’s the bad news. The good news is that a return could be coming.
That’s the feeling from Professor Charles Colgan, the keynote speaker for The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference’s 50th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum.
Colgan, a professor of Public Policy and Management at the University of Southern Maine, will outline the impact the country’s waning recession will have on state and local governments.
The country’s recession illustrates “significant changes” will need to be made in how state and local governments spend money. Colgan said. He warned states might not see a return to pre-recession levels for the next five or six years.
But Colgan isn’t the only speaker scheduled to discuss policy issues during the annual meeting. This year’s meeting includes nearly 130 speakers, who will discuss issues ranging from crime and education to transportation and energy to the environment and health.
“Maine is certainly not alone in addressing the need for alternative energies,” said Maine Sen. Phil Bartlett, annual meeting co-chair.
“This meeting is a great opportunity for Maine and its friends and neighbors to learn from each other as we search for ways to repower our mutual economies.”

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The meeting, entitled “Repowering the Northeast: Innovative Jobs, Energy and the Economy,” is designed to help legislators, policy experts and Eastern Canadian leaders find ways to use clean-energy technology to boost their economies.
“In this challenging economic climate, it is more important than ever that we work together to promote our Northeast issues such as trade, fiscal stability, agriculture and affordable health care at the federal level,” said Maine Rep. Nancy Smith, co-chair.
This year’s meeting will also include a Regional Meeting & Sharing More Important Now than Ever

In these tough fiscal times, it is more important than ever for Northeastern states and provinces to meet and share ideas—even if it costs them money.
That was the overarching theme during The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference’s Executive Committee meeting Sunday.
States, and well as much of the country, are still struggling under declining revenues—losses that can ultimately affect membership travel. During the meeting, David Adkins, CSG executive director, said, “We know all of the challenges. What we have yet to know is what the future will look like.”
But, he added: “I think these regional forums are particularly important.”

New Hampshire Rep. Linda Foster praised CSG’s Justice Center for its work developing the Justice Reinvestment Act, an act to get prison inmates back into society earlier and reduce the high costs of corrections.
Vermont already has a justice reinvestment policy on its books. New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch signed the act into law in July.
“It has already produced wonderful results in the state of Vermont. We know how it will produce in the state of New Hampshire,” Foster said.
CSG/ERC officials also presented awards to retiring members Foster and Maine Rep. Nancy Smith, CSG/ERC co-chair.

—Michael Jackson
When many other national polls predicted an easy victory for then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush, John Zogby stood almost alone. Zogby, the chairman of Zogby International Research LLC, was one of the few national pollsters who predicted a tight race for the 2000 presidency, a prediction that paid off.

Now, Zogby will be bringing his predictions to The Council of State Governments Eastern Regional Conference’s 50th Annual Meeting and Regional Policy Forum. Cilley gave the keynote luncheon address during the joint meeting of CSG/ERC’s Canada-U.S. Relations and Executive Committee.

“We are so interconnected,” Cilley said. “The decisions that we make here … affect all of the region around us. And most especially Canada.”

Cilley was one of eight legislators chosen nationally in June to meet with Canadian lawmakers, businesses and other officials to strengthen relationships between the two countries. The program, called the “Rising State Leaders” program, is designed to develop stronger ties between Canada and the U.S.

During her trip, Cilley said she recognized the importance of trade between the two countries. In New Hampshire, more than 32,000 jobs are dependent on Canadian trade, for example, she said.

“It is the trade, more than anything else, that is front and center with this program,” she said. Developing a strong trade relationship will behoove both of our countries.”

Cilley was the first keynote speaker for CSG/ERC’s 50th Annual Meeting. The meeting, called “Repowering the Northeast,” is partly designed to help states and provinces develop new ways to use clean-energy technology to rebuild the economy and create jobs, as well as to discuss key policy issues in areas such as education, energy and the environment, transportation, criminal justice and health.

Building strong relationships is key, Cilley said.

“You never know where those relationships will go.”

New Hampshire Sen. Jacalyn Cilley discusses the importance of the Canada-U.S. relationship Sunday at the CSG/ERC executive committee meeting.

‘Government Itself is on Trial,’ Pollster John Zogby to Speak Monday

The Mood of America: Summer 2010

Monday, Aug. 16 | 12:15-2 p.m. | Casco Bay Hall

When many other national polls predicted an easy victory for then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush, John Zogby stood almost alone. Zogby, the chairman of Zogby International Research LLC, was one of the few national pollsters who predicted a tight race for the 2000 presidency, a prediction that paid off.

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Zogby will be CSG/ERC’s luncheon keynote speaker on Monday. The topic, called “The Mood of America: Summer 2010,” will address the country’s current political landscape and how it could affect the upcoming midyear elections in the Northeast.

Overall, “government itself is on trial,” Zogby said. “There’s a sense that government and politics are not engaged in problem-solving. It’s come to a head, basically.”

Generally, the public has grown distrustful of government, Zogby said, and legislators will have to work overtime to reclaim that trust. Programs such as the stimulus bill have not yet convinced people that government is helping them, he said.

“The New Deal and the Great Society were dramatic and you saw people getting hired, you saw programs being created,” he said. “Here, I think we’ve had a generation of distrust for government, and now we have money being spent by government, and lots of people not feeling that money yet.”

But Zogby is just one of several keynote speakers on tap for this year’s annual meeting. Dr. Eliot Fisher, professor of Medicine and Community and Family Medicine at Dartmouth Medical School, will also give an address on the changing face of the health-care industry and how those changes could affect government.

Fisher, the Tuesday keynote luncheon speaker for the annual meeting, was most recently featured in a news story about health-care on 60 Minutes. He spoke about the rising costs of medical treatments for the sick and dying.

In addition, Vincent Covello, director of the Center for Risk Communication in New York City, will deliver a Wednesday keynote address on risk assessment, management and communication.

The annual meeting, entitled “Repowering the Northeast: Innovative Jobs, Energy and the Economy,” is designed to help legislators and other elected officials find ways to develop alternative-energies to boost their economies.

-- Michael Jackson
What’s Going on in Maine?

Clockwise from left: MNA Francois Ouimet speaks during CSG/ERC’s Sunday luncheon. Jose Diaz, senior policy analyst with the Office of the Speaker in Puerto Rico, is surprised at lunch by CSG/ERC Deputy Director Marge Kilkelly with the Virgil Puskarich Award. A street sign shows off the Portland Museum of Art, site of Sunday’s “Welcome to Maine” event. Guy Jensen, deputy executive director for the Legislative Office for Research Liaison in Pennsylvania, left, talks with Pennsylvania Representative James Roebuck. Vermont Sen. Richard Sears, chair of CSG/ERC’s Criminal Justice Advisory Board, listens during the executive committee meeting.
In New Hampshire, state officials are taking a common sense approach to long-term care. No one wants to be in a nursing home—so the state is shifting the paradigm to encourage home and community-based care. That program, called the New Hampshire Transitions in Caregiving, won a national CSG Innovations award—one of two in the Eastern region.

“The key to this project is it’s consumer-directed,” said Cathy Creapaux, program specialist. The program looks at the well-being of caregivers who devote themselves to spouses with dementias, for example, or elderly family members.

It cost $3,500 a month in a nursing home—at-home care is much cheaper, Creapaux said.

“Each state has these same dollars and I think they can use them differently,” said Kathleen Otte, director of the Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services in New Hampshire. That’s just one reason the program won a CSG Innovations award.

In the same way, the Bridging the Opportunity Gap in Massachusetts won the other national CSG Innovations award for the Eastern region.

The program fills a gap in services offered to help connect juvenile offenders with jobs and education services, two things vital to success, said Christine Kenney, director of Educational Services for the program.

The program funds 14 to 16 other programs a year at $60,000 to $100,000 each and those grantees help plug juvenile offenders into employment services and technical training.

One of the programs filling the gap is at a public vocational high school and there, those in the juvenile justice system are getting a second chance and learning automotive mechanic skills and how to repair an air conditioner, for example.

—Mikel Chavers

Repowering the Northeast: 130 at CSG/ERC 50th Annual Meeting

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roundtable policy discussion on the economy, featuring Maine Gov. John Baldacci, Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas and Deputy Premier of Nova Scotia Frank Corbett. The panel will primarily discuss the viability of clean-energy technology to create jobs.

The meeting, held Aug. 15-18 at the Hotel Inn by the Bay in Portland, Maine, is the largest gathering of state and Eastern Canadian provincial leaders in the Northeast. It will also include daily policy workshops in areas such as education, energy and the environment, U.S. and Canadian trade, criminal justice and health.

The need to reduce the region’s dependence on oil has increased dramatically. In July, 12 state senators wrote a letter to U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid from Nevada urging him to include baseline energy principles to new legislation.

“All told, we send $1 billion overseas every day to feed our oil addiction,” the letter read. “Those funds often go to countries that do not have our best interests at heart. To reduce this dependence, we should set a national target to eliminate imports from OPEC nations in 20 years, and enact a national plan to meet that goal.”

Not all policy discussions will discuss energy, however. CSG/ERC’s Transportation Committee will also preside over an off-site discussion Tuesday afternoon at Saco Transportation Center on the status of federal and state funding efforts for intercity passenger rail.

New York Assemblyman John Wisniewski, chair of CSG/ERC’s Transportation Committee and a Chair of the New Jersey Assembly Transportation Committee will moderate the session. David Cole, the commissioner of Maine’s Department of Transportation, will be one of the featured speaker.

—Michael Jackson