



Chellie Pingree Gives Key Note Address at Independent Transportation Network Annual Meeting

Pingree Highlights Local Grassroots Solutions

Portland, ME (Sept. 27, 2007): Chellie Pingree, the former Maine Senate Majority Leader Democrat and past President of Common Cause, is giving the keynote address at the Independent Transportation Network (ITN) Annual Meeting today. The meeting is at Park Danforth from 10:45 to 12:00.

Independent Transportation Network and ITNAmerica began as a graduate school project at the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service. Inspired by personal experience when someone in her family was involved in an automobile crash, ITN's founder, Katherine Freund set out to solve the underlying problem behind the crash: the U.S. transportation system does not meet the mobility needs of normally aging people. If older people do not have good transportation options, they cannot make safe transportation choices.

Today, ITNAmerica, which was founded here in Portland in 1995, has affiliates in Santa Monica, CA; Charleston, SC; Orlando, FL; Middlesex and Enfield, CT; Lexington, KY; Portland, ME; and Quad Cities, Iowa/Illinois. Its mission is to support sustainable, community-based transportation services for seniors by building a senior transportation network through research, policy analysis and education, and by promoting lifelong safety and mobility.

"I am honored to be here today and to highlight the important work of Independent Transportation Network. ITN addresses many issues important to people in Maine and around the country— public safety, social isolation and the importance of seniors remaining an active part of our community," said Pingree.

Pingree went on to say, "ITN is an example of Maine people creating a true grassroots, community based solution and of a Maine idea being exported across the country for the betterment of many."

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