



Press Release 4/15/2010

## MAINE PEOPLE GIVE THE GIFT OF CLEAN ELECTIONS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

(Portland, Maine)- Maine citizens are once again leading the way to reduce corporate influence in elections.



Cheryl Leeman Alison Smith and Ann Luther with the soap.

Today, MAINE CITIZENS FOR CLEAN ELECTIONS co-chairs Ann Luther and Alison Smith delivered more than 500 bars of soap in a gift basket to Senator Olympia Snowe's (R-Maine) Portland office. The message: Bring Maine-style Clean Elections to Washington. Maine offers a proven alternative that works.

The 500 plus bars of soap were sent by Maine Residents who would like to see publicly funded campaigns at the national level similar to those in Maine. Maine's citizen initiated Clean Election law went into effect in 2000.

Each soap in the gift basket includes an individual message to Senator Snowe:

*Dear Senator Snowe, please support the Maine-inspired Fair Elections Now Act. It's more important than ever.*

*Try a bar of soap, rather than grease. Sick to death of Washington "spin" favoring corporations.*

*Please stop the selling our democracy!*

The five hundred Mainers who sent soap were responding to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v FEC* which allows unlimited corporate spending on elections, a decision which Senator Snowe calls "regrettable." At the same time, Senator Snowe has been undecided on whether to back the Fair Elections Now Act, which is based in part on Maine's law.

Both Representative Chellie Pingree and Representative Mike Michaud are cosponsors of the Fair Elections Now Act. In the past, Senator Susan Collins has not supported public funding of Congressional elections but she is rethinking her position in light of the Citizens United decision.

Maine Citizens for Clean Elections is a nonpartisan coalition of groups and individuals that works in the

public interest to defend and improve the Maine Clean Election Act and related campaign finance laws.

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

AARP Maine, Common Cause Maine, EqualityMaine, League of Women Voters of Maine, League of Young Voters, Maine AFL-CIO, Maine Council of Churches, Maine People's Alliance/Maine People's Resource Center, NAACP Portland, Maine State Employees Association/SEIU Local 1989, Maine Women's Lobby, Peace Action Maine, Sierra Club Maine Chapter

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