



NEWS RELEASE

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CHARLES J. SPIES III HONORED BY THE U.S. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Augusta, Maine - Charles J. Spies III, former Chief Executive Officer of the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), has been named Maine's Financial Services Advocate of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Spies was nominated for this award by L. Joseph Wischerath, Executive Vice President of Maine and Company.

Over a period of thirteen years at the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), Charles J. Spies III has been a tireless advocate for small business, championing efforts to provide financing for early stage businesses, for businesses requiring an extra element of help and support, and, in general, for any Maine Business.

When the paper mills in Millinocket and East Millinocket announced their closing, eliminating employment for 1,200 people, Spies and FAME stepped in to assist the businesses of the area. FAME, under Charlie's leadership, along with the SBA and Maine SBDC, co-coordinated many business assistance agencies to offer a series of workshops both for businesses suffering from the shut down and for those individuals who were interested in starting or expanding their part time businesses. This project became known as Project KEEP (Katahdin Entrepreneurship Education Programs).

Spies advocacy efforts on behalf of small businesses have resulted in an improved financial landscape in Maine, for small and large businesses alike. A champion of early stage business financing programs, Charlie has leveraged significant amounts of private capital for start-up businesses. The Seed Capital Tax Credit program, offering 40-60% tax credits for Maine-based investors, has had a positive impact on Maine businesses.

William Beardsley, President, Husson College and Chairman of FAME sums it all up, "Charlie Spies is an excellent banker and administrator but he is first and foremost a caring individual who has a genuine interest in helping Maine's most needy students attend college. With Charlie, it is a cause not just a job."

"Charlie's efforts on behalf of Maine businesses are unparalleled. Charlie understands how to develop partnerships and leverage scarce resources. There are thousands of jobs in Maine because of Charlie's vision and leadership", stated Mary McAleney, Maine SBA District Director.

Spies will be honored at the SBA awards celebration, May 25th at Spectacular Event Center in Bangor. For information on the winners or awards celebration, contact Bonnie Erickson at 622-8275 or Sandra Fontaine at 622-8381

