

State Representative

# Kathleen D. Chase

142 Branch Road  
Wells, Maine 04090  
(207) 646-2118

*Proudly Serving the Citizens of District 147  
a portion of Wells*



## **E-Newsletter** **7/23/09**

### **State Issues:**

#### **Economic News**

The Maine Department of Labor announced that the state's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 8.5% in June, an increase from 8.3% in April. This is still lower than the national rate, which was 9.5% in June.

In June 2008 the state's unemployment rate was 5.2%. Over the past year approximately 19,400 non-farm wage and salary jobs have been lost. Maine's unemployment rate for June was the third highest in New England, behind Massachusetts at 8.6% and Rhode Island at 12.4%.

#### **Governor Requests Federal Disaster Aid**

Governor Baldacci has filed a formal request with the White House for federal disaster aid as a result of recent heavy rain. From June 18 through July 8, heavy rain, hail, damaging winds, flooding, erosion and landslides severely impacted the state, causing an estimated \$2.5 million in damage.

The request for a major disaster declaration would cover Franklin, Hancock, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Somerset, Waldo and Washington Counties. Piscataquis County may be added to the request, pending the results of a preliminary damage assessment.

#### **Broadband grants available**

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), funding is available through the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) for projects which expand broadband access in unserved and underserved areas. Facilities which provide computer centers open to the public, such as community colleges and public libraries, may apply for grants to expand their computer capacity. Application packages for electronic and paper submissions are available at <http://www.broadbandusa.gov>. Applications will be accepted until August 14, 2009.

*If you would like to be removed from future mailings,  
please respond to this email with the word "remove" in the subject line.*