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MRRRA receives Maine Development Foundation's 2011 Champions of Economic Development Award

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRRA) has been chosen as a recipient for the Maine Development Foundation's Champion of Economic Development Award.

For the past several years MRRRA has been working with the Navy and federal, state and local leaders with the transition from the disestablished Naval Air Station Brunswick (NASB) to Brunswick Landing: Maine's Center for Innovation in Brunswick, and Topsham Commerce Park in Topsham.

"The closing of NASB leave us with a tremendous economic development opportunity for the state," noted Steve Levesque, MRRRA's executive director. "With a world class airport, over two million square feet of commercial and industrial space, and acres of natural open space, Brunswick Landing is poised become the single most important economic development asset in Maine."



MRRRA has been implementing a business development strategy focusing on targeted marketing industries such as: Aviation and Aerospace; Information Technology; Advanced Composites; Education; Renewable Energy Development; and Resort Hotel and Conference Center. To date, there are several companies already doing business in these industries at Brunswick Landing, with several more in the pipeline. These businesses promise up to 700 new jobs and private investments totaling over \$150 million in the next three years.

"We are honored that MDF chose MRRRA for this award," continued Levesque.

The Maine Development Foundation (MDF) is a 33 year-old, non-partisan, non-profit, economic development organization dedicated to driving sustainable, long-term economic growth for Maine. MDF stimulates new ideas, develops leaders, and provides common ground for solving problems and advancing issues.

Each year, MDF honors those making an impact in the state of Maine with the Champions of Economic Development award. Winners (for-profit and non-profit) are chosen for their commitment to economic growth in Maine, ability to collaborate and create partnerships, high professional standards, and innovativeness.

"Maine is fortunate to be home to these amazing organizations that are working tirelessly to transform Maine," stated Laurie Lachance, President and CEO of MDF. "We are thrilled to recognize their efforts and share it with others who have the same passion," continued Lachance.

The Awards will be presented on September 16 at MDF's Annual Meeting at Point Lookout in Northport. The theme of this year's meeting is: Transforming Maine: From "Just Imagine" to "Just Do It." The meeting will also feature national folklorist Nick Spitzer, producer and host of *American Routes* and professor of anthropology and American Studies at Tulane University. *American Routes*, distributed by American Public Media, reaches nearly a million listeners each week on over 225 stations and via its website. Nick has been a cultural commentator and producer for NPR's *All Things Considered* and *Fresh Air*, CBS' *Sunday Morning*, and ABC's *Nightline*

For more information on MDF or to be a part of the celebration, go to www.mdf.org or call 622-6345.

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