BRUCE POLIQUIN 2ND DISTRICT, MAINE COMMITTEE ON

FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515—1902

Town of Old Town 265 Main St. Old Town, ME 04468

Fellow Mainers,

It is a true honor to serve on behalf of the honest and hardworking men and women of our Great State. As your Representative, I am proud that, by working with everyone – Republicans, Democrats, and Independents – we were able to achieve some major victories for Maine in 2017.

Creating and protecting jobs has been and remains one of my top priorities in Congress, and this year we had some big successes. Continuing our work from last Congress, I joined forces with Senators Collins and King to fight to ensure the Department of Defense uses American tax dollars to purchase American made products, like the shoes made by the nearly 900 hardworking Mainers at New Balance. Too often in the past, our foreign competitors made these shoes for our troops, but we won the fight this year and now those shoes can be made in the Pine Tree State. This is a huge victory for the 900 hardworking Mainers at New Balance in Skowhegan, Norway, and Norridgewock.

In addition, the House of Representatives voted 418 - 1 to pass my bill to help business development and job creation in Old Town, and the House Natural Resources Committee voted unanimously in favor of my bill to help worm and clam harvesters settle boundary disputes with Acadia National Park. These are two more big wins for job creation in Maine, and I will not let up one inch until they become law.

Thankfully, this year we stopped the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in its tracks and fought against other unfair trade deals. I testified before the International Trade Commission (ITC) on behalf of Colombia Forest Products in Aroostook County when illegal Chinese products were hurting their business and threatening its 161 workers. I was thrilled the ITC ruled in favor of Mainers and against illegal Chinese manufacturers. Mainers are the hardest working people in the world and we can compete and win against anyone, but the rules must be fair.

As a new member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, I created a Veterans Advisory Panel comprised of Maine Veterans from all corners of our Great State. This panel gives Maine Veterans a direct seat at the table and a voice in Washington, D.C. Together, we worked to address malpractice at Togus, resolved numerous late payments from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to several rural Maine hospitals, and settled dozens of Maine Veteran's disability claims at the VA.

Unacceptably, this past year multiple members of Congress committed sexual harassment in the workplace. This is reprehensible behavior and should not be tolerated anywhere. As the lead Republican, I joined Democrats and Republicans to pass a resolution that significantly changes outdated sexual harassment procedures in the House of Representatives. Employees should always feel safe and comfortable in their own workplace, and it is past time Congress resolves this issue.

Lastly, I am extremely proud of the services that our Congressional office has been able to provide to help hundreds of Mainers in the past two years. Whether it is a helping a Veteran navigate the bureaucracy at the

VA, assisting an elderly Mainer with Medicare issues, or advising a Mainer with a case at the IRS, my office is always available to help. I encourage anyone who is experiencing problems with a government agency, including our Veterans when dealing with the VA, to contact one of my Congressional offices in Maine—Bangor (942-0583), Lewiston (784-0768), Caribou (492-1600)—or visit my website at Poliquin.House.Gov.

We have made great progress, but our work is far from over. The Great State of Maine and our Nation face many critical challenges. Please know that I am working hard, every day, to serve you and that I will continue to work here at home and in Washington D.C. for our families, Veterans, elderly Mainers, local small businesses and communities. It is an honor to represent you and our fellow Mainers in Congress.

Best wishes,

Bruce Poliquin

Maine's 2nd District Congressman

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