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I am writing today to make you an offer I hope you won't refuse. For 2020, GrowSmart Maine is offering to all municipalities complimentary Supporting level government memberships. Just let me know you're interested and we'll take care of the rest. We do this because we know the coming year will be particularly tough for communities as you balance immediate needs with revenue shortfalls.

In the coming years, the economic impacts we are witnessing from COVID-19 will bring new challenges, and **in many ways may re-shape our thinking and our priorities.**

This moment offers time to reflect on what's important, what kind of place we want to live. Connections to friends and neighbors, local foods and businesses, and towns and rural areas we love. It can be hard to think about what our state might look like and what things will have changed by the time we come out of the current crisis, but GrowSmart Maine continues to focus on efforts that will help Mainers do just that.

- Right now, we are creating a series of **online forums** on important topics that will become even more critical, such as **housing choice and energy efficiency.**
- Broadband has proven to be a mainstay to the state's economy, and we are actively advocating that Mainers vote **Yes on the \$15 million broadband bond** on July 14th.
- Our fall Summit will take on the **value of home rule:** how can we adapt this New England tradition for the coming decades - and even for the next few years as recovery from the pandemic is underway.
- GrowSmart worked with MEREDA, CEI, Greater Portland Landmarks and Maine Preservation to **ensure Maine's historic rehab tax credit remains a viable tool** for redeveloping structures that are critical to our economy and sense of place. This legislative session, the sunset on the tax credit was extended for two years. In the coming year, we will continue our advocacy as the administration undertakes its own economic impact study of this tax credit.

Your free 2020 membership will keep you connected with our work, include reduced registration fees for events. See the Membership Benefits page for more information.

Please let us know how else we can help.

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