

October 16, 2005

Letter to the Editor
Maine Sunday Telegram

Your prominent coverage of the *New England Futures Project* in the Insight section of the October 2 Sunday Telegram deserves congratulations.

Futures Project authors Neal Peirce and Curtis Johnson are to be commended for the thoroughness of their research and for challenging New Englander's to better collaborate in shaping the region's economy.

While the benefits of "regionalization" have largely been focused at the local level, it is essential that we expand the horizon to address regionalization among the six New England states. The opportunities for cooperative programs, shared investment and regional strategies are particularly ripe in such areas as higher education, transportation systems, energy, tourism, medical research and emergency planning. A unified New England economy will help to overcome the reality that we are small fish in the global pond and that we cannot afford to continue competing against each other.

The *New England Futures Project* will be discussed in greater detail at the upcoming meeting of the New England Association of Regional Councils to be held in Portland, October 27-29. Any one interested in attending the conference should contact me at nallen@gpcog.org.

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