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Dear Waterville residents and friends:

These days I'm as frustrated as anyone with the partisan gridlock in Washington. Even the most routine congressional functions, such as passing budgets, are caught up in irresponsible political games. One way to stop this is a bill I am pushing that would make sure members of Congress wouldn't get paid if they fail to pass budget and appropriation bills on time. It is time for Congress to get serious and show some common sense.

Yet, despite congressional dysfunction, I'm pleased to report progress on a number of initiatives important to Maine. Last year, Congress passed the Small Business Jobs Act, which included my amendment to ensure Maine small business lending agencies qualified for funding under the bill. As a result, Maine received \$13.2 million last September to support small business development. Since a requirement of the funding was to match every federal dollar with 10 additional dollars, that one investment is expected to spur \$132 million in small business lending in our state.

My work in support of our nation's veterans continues to be very important to me. Last October, the House passed a measure I authored to ensure that severely disabled and elderly veterans are able to get the care they need at Maine's state veterans' homes. I'm pleased that it passed unanimously in the House, and I'm hopeful the Senate acts on it soon.

We still have much work to do to create jobs and grow our national and state economies. Last year, I visited many Maine manufacturers and received a tremendous amount of valuable feedback. After these visits, and having heard back from over 85 Maine companies that filled out an online survey I created, it was made clear to me that legislative action is needed at the federal level to do more to boost our manufacturers and the positive impact they have on our economy.

My highest priority has always been ensuring that Mainers receive timely and quality constituent services. Whether you have a specific concern with a federal agency or need help connecting to resources, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at my Lewiston office at 207-782-3704. I also encourage you to visit my website ([www.house.gov/michaud](http://www.house.gov/michaud)), where you can email me, sign up for email updates, and connect with me on Facebook and Twitter.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you in Congress.

With warmest regards,



Michael H. Michaud  
Member of Congress

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