

Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow

Thursday

October 6, 2016

**Walt Whitcomb
Commissioner**

**Maine Dept. of Agriculture,
Conservation and Forestry**



Walter E. Whitcomb has served as Maine's Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry since January 2011.

Commissioner Whitcomb provides administrative, financial, human resource, legal and legislative policy direction to 770 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Department (ACF) employees who are organized into four distinct Bureaus – Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources; Forestry; Parks and Lands; and Resource Information and Land Use Planning.

Whitcomb served 12 years in the Maine House of Representatives – 6 years as Republican Floor Leader and as a member of the Joint Standing Committees on Agriculture and Taxation.

A University of Maine graduate, Whitcomb also served in positions with local government, Maine and American Farm Bureau, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, trade organizations, and as the USDA Farm Service Agency State Committee Chairman.

He currently serves as an officer with the Northeast Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NEASDA) and has Committee responsibilities with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA).

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Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center and School of Forest Resources

Distinguished Maine Policy Fellows are prominent Maine individuals with past or current careers as policy makers in the state. The Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center brings these individuals to campus for a day to teach an undergraduate class, engage faculty about research and public policy, and meet with UMaine administration and graduate students.