



For Immediate Release

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FOCUSMAINE APPOINTS BIOECONOMY LEADER AS NEW PRESIDENT

PORTLAND, Maine (June 8, 2022)—FocusMaine, a private sector-led initiative to catalyze job growth and enhance the state's economy, announced today that Dana O'Brien will become the organization's next president.

O'Brien brings to FocusMaine significant experience in the private and government sectors. For more than a decade, he served in progressive management roles at the [Biotechnology Innovation Organization \(BIO\)](#), leading teams and building coalitions focused on transforming the U.S. economy into one centered on cutting-edge biology, technology, and sustainability. Most recently, as BIO's chief sustainability officer, O'Brien established the biotech industry's first sustainability policy and thought leadership program and helped guide BIO's strategic overhaul. Previously, as BIO's executive vice president, he secured bipartisan policies and diversified partnerships for BIO's food, farm, and environmental members. Prior to BIO, O'Brien spent more than 13 years on Capitol Hill in a senior policy role for a member of Congress.

"We are thrilled to have found a leader of Dana's caliber to continue to advance FocusMaine's strategy," said Andrea Cianchette Maker, co-chair of FocusMaine. "His significant experience in building coalitions and strategic partnerships, commitment to transparent leadership and expert knowledge in our key sectors of biopharmaceuticals, agriculture, and aquaculture align perfectly with FocusMaine's strategy."

Michael Dubyak, FocusMaine co-chair, said, "We are excited for Dana to help us build on FocusMaine's progress to strengthen key sectors in Maine's economy. He brings knowledge and perspective on the innovation trends driving economic growth within our key sectors. This insight will help us support our sectors as they evolve and innovate to remain relevant in their global markets."

"What an exciting time to take the helm at FocusMaine," said O'Brien. "Maine's economy is transforming before our eyes. The economic pressures associated with COVID-19 are leading to a renewed focus on resilience and innovation, particularly in science and technology. It's just the right time for Maine to enhance its effort to grow

jobs within the sectors at the heart of FocusMaine’s mission. I’m delighted to bring my skills to this exceptional organization and to call Maine home.”

O’Brien is a graduate of the University of Missouri, holding a BA in Psychology. He grew up in rural Missouri and has family roots in Presque Isle. He and his husband reside in Ogunquit.

Dana will become FocusMaine’s second president, following Kimberly Hamilton who skillfully launched FocusMaine’s programs and generated [significant successes and partnership growth](#) over the past five years. Dana will begin work with FocusMaine on June 13th.

About FocusMaine

FocusMaine is a private sector-led initiative to accelerate the creation of quality jobs in Maine by investing in three of Maine’s globally competitive and high-growth fields—agriculture, aquaculture, and biopharmaceuticals—and by strengthening Maine’s workforce capacity. FocusMaine partners with a number of Maine organizations to spur business growth within those sectors. Together with its partners, FocusMaine catalyzes sustainable growth and business confidence that energizes Maine’s economy. For more information, visit www.focusmaine.org.