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CONTACTS: Listed Below

MAINE'S REAL ESTATE SALES UP OVER 8 PERCENT IN MARCH

SOUTH PORTLAND (April 26, 2006) — With the advent of spring and comfortable house hunting weather, Maine's single-family existing real estate sales rose 8.45 percent during the month of March 2006. According to the Maine Real Estate Information System, Inc., Realtors reported increasingly positive sales and home prices, indicating a continually healthy sales market.

The statewide median sales price bumped up .80 percent to \$189,000, up from March 2005's figure of \$187,500. The median sales price indicates that half of the homes were sold for more and half sold for less.

Nationally, single-family home sales dipped .5 percent in March. According to the National Association of Realtors, the national median sales price for those homes increased 7.8 percent to \$217,300.

Sales in the Northeastern United States were up 2.6 percent last month. The regional median sales price reached \$275,000, a jump of 5 percent from March 2005.

Gail Rizzo of Lakepoint Real Estate in Belgrade Lakes says her sales area is "absolutely a seller's market." Rizzo, the current President of the Maine Association of Realtors, says the Belgrade Lakes area draws many secondary homebuyers. "The seven lakes within the region include many searched-after waterfront properties, which usually start from \$279,000 and go to \$500,000. We are still affordable to the second home market, which isn't affected by interest rates. Most are cash transactions with no bank involvement," she says.

The primary home market is also "very healthy. I think we'll stay the same in the future - steady and strong," Rizzo adds.

A chart showing statistics for Maine and its 16 counties follows. The first chart lists statistics for the month of March only, statewide. The second chart compares the number of existing, single-family homes sold (units) and volume (MSP) in the rolling quarter of January, February and March of 2005 and 2006.

(Continued)

MARCH STATEWIDE CHART

From March 1-31, 2005 to March 1-31, 2006

County	# Units Sold 2005	# Units Sold 2006	% Change	MSP 2005	MSP 2006	% Change
STATEWIDE	959	1040	8.45%	\$187,500	\$189,000	0.80%

FIRST QUARTER CHART

From January 1 - March 31, 2005 to January 1 - March 31, 2006

County	# Units Sold 2005	# Units Sold 2006	% Change	MSP 2005	MSP 2006	% Change
STATEWIDE	2423	2461	1.57%	\$185,000	\$190,000	2.70%
Androscoggin	203	190	-6.40%	\$152,000	\$155,250	2.14%
Aroostook	40	68	70.00%	\$60,335	\$73,350	21.57%
Cumberland	644	598	-7.14%	\$239,900	\$250,000	4.21%
Franklin	52	73	40.38%	\$126,250	\$140,000	10.89%
Hancock	87	104	19.54%	\$240,000	\$230,000	-4.17%
Kennebec	205	211	2.93%	\$125,000	\$139,900	11.92%
Knox	67	83	23.88%	\$230,000	\$217,500	-5.43%
Lincoln	72	65	-9.72%	\$198,250	\$215,000	8.45%
Oxford	110	126	14.55%	\$134,800	\$145,000	7.57%
Penobscot	258	257	-0.39%	\$135,000	\$135,000	0.00%
Piscataquis	29	32	10.34%	\$81,900	\$85,450	4.33%
Sagadahoc	67	92	37.31%	\$175,000	\$195,000	11.43%
Somerset	75	77	2.67%	\$85,000	\$112,900	32.82%
Waldo	60	73	21.67%	\$133,000	\$154,500	16.17%
Washington	14	8	-42.86%	\$125,500	\$116,875	-6.87%
York	440	404	-8.18%	\$235,000	\$235,000	0.00%

Source: Maine Real Estate Information System, Inc. Note: MREIS, a subsidiary of the Maine Association of REALTORS, is a statewide Multiple Listing Service with over 5,200 licensees inputting active and sold property listing data. Statistics reflect properties reported as sold in the System within the time periods indicated.

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