

# EDITORIAL

## CC Bond

I'm Fred Nutter with this WLBZ 2-WCSH 6 editorial.

We continue our look at the bond package proposed by the Governor, altered and adopted by the appropriations committee. We supported the proposed highway bond. Safe highways and bridges are basic and vital for all of us. Our second priority is bonding for the Community Colleges.

The Community Colleges are an outstanding success story in Maine. In the past four years the enrollment has grown by nearly 50 percent. In fact there are waiting lines for some classes. The mission of the Community College system is to provide a higher education for Maine students and to meet the specific needs of business and industry in our state. The Colleges have met their challenges well, but they are in danger of falling behind unless the classrooms and buildings are improved.

Although the Community College System is fairly new in Maine most of the seven campuses are located in the old Vocational Technical College buildings, some dating back before world war one and they show the ravages of time. The Community College System identified a \$50 million needs list and ended up with \$15.5 million. It should be more.

There is a return from the investment for all of us. 95 percent of the graduates stay in Maine holding down better paying jobs because of their education, and they become taxpayers, homeowners and investors in the State.

As for our bonding priorities we place the Community Colleges at the top of the list.

That's our opinion we welcome yours.

Fred Nutter  
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