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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tom Largay of Old Port Card Works and Old Port Candy Co. Awarded Retail Association of Maine's 2024 Jim McGregor Government Service Award**

Freeport, ME (October 22, 2024) – The Retail Association of Maine (RAM) proudly presented its 2024 Jim McGregor Government Service Award to Tom Largay. Tom and his wife, Anna, own both Old Port Candy Company and Old Port Card Works in Portland, Maine. This prestigious award recognizes individuals who have gone above and beyond in support of Maine's retail and business community.

The Largays are fixtures of the Portland downtown community, having served locals and tourists for many years. For more than a decade, Tom has fiercely advocated for Maine's retailers and small business owners. He frequently testifies on issues that impact retailers and small businesses in Portland, Augusta, and Washington, D.C., and never hesitates to be the face of an issue or to write a letter to the editor. He continues to serve as a board member of the Retail Association of Maine and served four years as chair from 2016 to 2019.

"Tom is always willing to step up and lend his voice and experience to any discussion. He recognizes the importance of advocating for his business and others like him," stated Curtis Picard, President and CEO of the Retail Association of Maine. "Tom joins the illustrious list of previous recipients of the Jim McGregor Award. I could not be more pleased to see Tom chosen for this honor."

Tom was recognized last week at SUMMIT 2024 on October 17th in Freeport, Maine. Hosted at L.L. Bean's Corporate Headquarters, SUMMIT 2024 is a collaborative conference organized by the Retail Association of Maine, Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association and the New Hampshire Retail Association. Tom was recognized in a celebration attended by colleagues and New England business leaders. Mr. Largay noted, "Being a small business owner requires perseverance, and I take great pride in advocating for the regulatory needs of our state's small businesses. It's been a privilege to represent so many voices in our industry. Thank you to the Retail Association of Maine for this recognition and for the vital work you do."

The McGregor Award is named after the Retail Association of Maine's retired director of government affairs, Mr. Jim McGregor. Jim's many decades of advocacy in public policy had a major impact on Maine business. His steadfast dedication and perseverance have long been recognized and appreciated by Maine's retail and

business industry. The Jim McGregor Award has been presented annually to a wide list of state and local officials and industry champions. Last year, Greg Dugal of HospitalityMaine received the award. Other notable recipients include Quincy Hentzel of the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce, Maine Senator Stacey Guerin, U.S. Senator Susan Collins (2013), and then-Representative Janet Mills (2006).

**About the Retail Association of Maine**

*The Retail Association of Maine is a statewide, non-profit trade association representing more than 300 businesses in the state, from large chains to small independent retailers. Incorporated in 1937, the Retail Association of Maine serves as the voice of retailers in Maine and concentrates on preserving the state's strong retail climate. For more information on the Retail Association of Maine, please refer to the website at [www.retailmaine.org](http://www.retailmaine.org) or call the Retail Association of Maine office at 207-623-1149.*

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