

Anthony W. Buxton

Partner

Tony serves as chair of the firm's Energy and Utilities Practice Group and is a member of the firm's Management Committee. Tony creates solutions to businesses' energy problems, including the challenge of high-energy costs. Tony has been a key player in Maine and New England on energy and infrastructure issues for decades, playing an important role in every major piece of energy legislation in Maine in the last 30 years as well as being involved in the formation of ISO-NE. In recent years, Tony has focused on overcoming challenges to infrastructure development in New England, both fixed and network in nature.

Prior to joining Preti Flaherty, Tony served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army (Armor) and worked for future U.S. Senate Majority Leader George J. Mitchell. After law school, he co-founded the Energy Law Institute in Concord, New Hampshire, the nation's first renewable energy think tank. The Institute served the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of the Navy, the National Conference of State Legislatures and others in developing state and federal policies to encourage renewable energy. Tony then served as law clerk to the Honorable Hugh H. Bownes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit in Boston. Tony joined Preti Flaherty after completing his clerkship in 1980.



Tel 207.623.5300
abuxton@preti.com

Practice Areas

- Cleantech & Renewable Energy
- Climate Strategy
- Energy & Telecommunications
- Government Affairs
- Maine Legislative Team
- Offshore & Onshore Wind Power
- First Light

Education

- Franklin Pierce Law Center (J.D., 1978)
- Bowdoin College (B.A., 1968)
- Kents Hill School (1964)

Admissions

- Maine
- Maine Supreme Judicial Court
- U.S. District Court, District of Maine
- U.S. District Court, District of New Hampshire
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals, D.C. Circuit

Professional Affiliations

- Maine State Bar Association
- American Bar Association
 - Energy and Natural Resources of Natural Law, Member

Honors & Awards

- Listed in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*
- Listed in Woodward/White's *The Best Lawyers in America* since 1988

Civic Involvement

- The Maine Legal Needs Study, Executive Committee
- Pine Tree Legal Services, Inc., former Director
- Maine Bar Foundation, former Director
- Connect ME, a Maine telecom and broadband initiative, former Chair, 2006
- Commission on Maine's Future, Vice-Chair, 1988-1990
- Portland Ballet, former Director
- John Kerry for President, Finance Chair, 2004
- Democracy Maine, Director
- High School Hockey Coach, 2003

Publications

- Co-Author of *Federal and State Legal and Institutional Obstacles to the Development of Small Scale Hydroelectric Projects*. (US DOE)

Case Studies

Natural Gas at an Unnatural Price

High energy costs in New England created a crisis for the member manufacturing facilities of the Industrial Energy Consumer Group (IECG). While other areas of the United States had plenty of natural gas at reasonable prices, New England was still stuck with a decades-long problem of shortages due to insufficient pipeline capacity. The IECG realized it needed to take serious action and Preti Flaherty was ready for the challenge.

Fueling New England business

Our Energy Law Group has years of expertise in law, regulation and policy of electric markets. We knew that the best way to bring more natural gas at lower costs to New England was to show demand for new pipelines. If we could put Maine in a leadership position and influence other states to commit to purchase natural gas, more pipeline infrastructure would be built. A comprehensive energy omnibus bill was needed to authorize the Maine Public Utilities Commission to commit to purchasing a large supply of natural gas.

Change from the ground up

We gathered key stakeholders from the Maine's executive and legislative branches, industry and environmental groups to map out a plan. A direct lobbying effort targeted all 186 members of the Maine legislature to encourage approval of the bill. Smart grassroots and media campaigns educated the public on the benefits of the bill, as well as encouraging direct contacts to legislators to influence their vote. The bill passed with enough votes to override a veto by the Governor.

Representative Matters

- Structures entities to finance, construct and/or operate energy projects, including hydroelectric, wind, biomass, and solid waste facilities from 400 kilowatts to 200 megawatts in size, as well as transmission, LNG and ethanol projects.
- Advises clients on tax, corporate and other legal implications of energy project purchase, sale and development and conservation implementation.
- Serves as General Counsel to the Industrial Energy Consumer Group, representing the region's largest consumers of electricity, and the Cut the Cost Coalition, a recently created New England based electricity consumer group.

Publications

January 22, 2016

CLF's contradictory philosophies

CommonWealth Magazine