



**NH State Senate**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release:**

October 17, 2011

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**Senators Houde and Prescott named 2011 Legislator of the Year by New Futures**

*Legislators cited for their work on SB 120 providing local control over "Happy Hour" advertising*

(Concord) Two state Senators have been named the 2011 Legislator of the Year by New Futures. Senators Matthew Houde, D-Plainfield, and Russell Prescott, R-Kingston, received the award at the group's Annual Recognition Event at the University of New Hampshire on October 14<sup>th</sup>.

According to Linda Saunders Paquette, Executive Director of New Futures, this year's award recognizes Houde and Prescott's important work on Senate Bill 120. As introduced, the legislation would have eliminated all restrictions on "Happy Hour" advertising and permitted exterior signage and banners promoting reduced price alcohol beverages. Paquette said, "Senators Houde and Prescott worked diligently to amend SB 120 ensuring that every New Hampshire city and town has the authority to determine whether or not it is in the best interest of the community to permit signage advertising reduced-price alcohol."

Paquette added, "Their thoughtful voices and determined advocacy as members of the Senate Commerce Committee and on the Senate floor ensured that consideration of and respect for community values and the importance of local control were central to the debate on SB 120. There is little doubt that without their commitment and leadership in support of the local control amendment to SB 120, the amendment would not have passed and cities and towns would be without the power to control 'Happy Hour' signage."

Commenting on the honor, Houde said, "I am genuinely honored to be recognized by New Futures with this award. New Futures is engaged in such important work, so I was happy to ensure that the legislation was as consistent as possible with their policy objectives. Specifically, the amendment offered, with bi-partisan support, to SB 120 was a common sense and New Hampshire-favored approach to provide for local control. It merely provided an 'opt out' provision for local municipalities."

Prescott echoed his colleague's sentiments adding, "It was a pleasure working with New Futures to amend SB 120 to respect the values of our communities here in New Hampshire that have a vested interest in supporting responsible behavior concerning the consumption of alcohol."

New Futures is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to reduce alcohol and other drug problems in New Hampshire. For more information, please visit: [www.new-futures.org](http://www.new-futures.org).

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