



New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

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**Remarks as prepared by Sen. Peter Bragdon to his colleagues
following his re-election as Senate President
Senate Chamber
December 5, 2012**

My friends and colleagues, though two years ago we faced a very difficult financial challenge in our great state, I do not think the road ahead this term will be much easier. Revenues are likely to grow very slowly and there is a cloud of uncertainty to our finances that has drifted our way from Washington. Two years ago we all faced very difficult decisions; let us not fool ourselves into thinking that this year's decisions will be any less difficult.

Though there are certainly difficult decisions to be made, it is not only important what those decisions are, but how we arrive at them. All of us have spent the last several months on the campaign trail. And during the campaign it is very easy to find ways to blame the other side for whatever problems we deem to be facing our state.

But the time for campaigning has ended, and we see the results here before us, 24 of us, 13 Republicans and 11 Democrats. Those who elected us expect the finger pointing that was prevalent in the campaign to stop and they expect us to lead. They expect us to work together to identify our challenges and work together to craft solutions.

They do not expect us to agree all the time, but they do expect us to discuss issues and possible solutions in a respectful manner, being willing to listen to our colleagues who hold opposing views and respecting their convictions. And once the final votes have been cast and counted, each side should know they had a fair chance to present their case. I believe the state Senate has lived up to that expectation in the past, and I will work to make sure we live up to it again this term.

With that in mind, I would like to thank Senators Bradley and Larsen for their kind words in support of my nomination. It has been a pleasure working with them in their capacities as majority leader and minority leader. They have been essential components to the respectful manner of our work here in the Senate.

Once again, thanks to you, my Senate colleagues, for allowing me to serve as your Senate President. There are many challenges that lie before us, but I am confident we will be faithful to the trust placed in us by the voters of New Hampshire and we will be able to look back at the end of this term with satisfaction for our efforts.

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