

The great English poet Percy Shelley said, "Poets are the unacknowledged legislators of the world." This lack of acknowledgement is especially evident today in the state of Maine, as our new governor takes office without the benefit of an inaugural poem.

This is quite ironic, as one of the most celebrated aspects of Maine's heritage has been its poetic legacy, in the names of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow of Portland, Edward Arlington Robinson of Gardiner, and Edna St. Vincent Millay of Camden, to name only a few.

Unfortunately, Maine has become known as an unfriendly state in which to do business. It can ill afford to become known as an unfriendly state in which to do art.

I would call on the new governor to redress this oversight by acknowledging the echo of our poetic ancestors in the voices of Maine's creative community today.