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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND
COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

March 26, 2010

Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman
Senator Thad Cochran, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations
131 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Dianne Feinstein, Chairman
Senator Lamar Alexander, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Interior,
Environment, and Related Agencies
131 Dirksen & 125 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

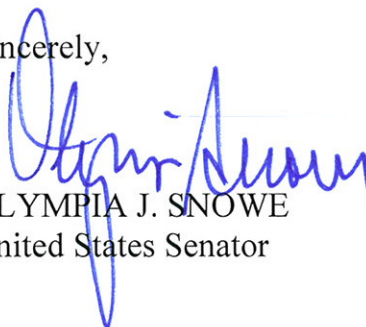
Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Feinstein, and Alexander,

I am writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY2011) Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for programs and projects that are important to Maine. A description of these requests in alphabetical order by organization follows.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 or Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

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BIDDEFORD
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PORTLAND
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BioDiversity Research Institute, Maine Mercury Monitoring Network, Gorham, Maine – \$250,000.

BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI) requests funding to initiate a Maine Mercury Monitoring Network to track mercury pollution hotspots, assess the impact of mercury emission policies, and protect human and ecosystem health in Maine. Despite the need for expanded national mercury monitoring by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Inspector, there is currently no statewide or national network in place. The protocol for this network will be based on an ongoing effort by a multi-agency national effort to establish a national mercury-monitoring plan. Maine could provide a leadership role for this national plan. The results will be used to evaluate the risks to both public and ecosystem health, and how these areas are responding to policy and management efforts.

Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park Land Acquisition, Bar Harbor, Maine – \$3,000,000.

This appropriation from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund will enable Acadia National Park to purchase a 39-acre property inside park boundaries on the border of Lower Hadlock Pond, a public drinking water supply. The land is being offered by a willing seller. This will benefit the local community by permanently protecting water quality and eliminating the need for the water district to raise rates. It will benefit Acadia's 2.4 million visitors by permanently protecting the hiking trails that cross the property and preserving the park's land base for future generations to enjoy. The purpose of the funding is to acquire private land within the Congressionally-designated boundary of Acadia National Park and add it to the existing public ownership.

Maine Acadian Heritage Council, World Acadian Congress Infrastructure Enhancement and Awareness Initiative, Madawaska, Maine – \$1,500,000.

To prepare northern Maine to host an International event – the equivalent of the Olympics for the Acadian Culture – the World Acadian Congress in 2014 will be the largest international event ever hosted by the region, and will attract an estimated 300,000 participants and bring more than 50,000 visitors from throughout the world to the area. Aroostook County competed against other North American sites, including Lafayette, Louisiana, and Quebec City, Quebec, and was selected in 2009 to host the event, which is held every five years in a different French-speaking region of the world. Hosting the World Acadian Congress is consistent with Public Law 101-54 – “An act to provide for the preservation and interpretation of sites associated with Acadian culture in the State of Maine.” This will be the single most important development toward that end since the law's passage. The economic impact to the immediate and surrounding region hosting a World Acadian Congress is between \$30 million and \$50 million. These estimates are based on previous events held in Louisiana, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. This will result in a significant economic boost to a region that suffers from economic hardship above the national norm.

Maine Department of Conservation Bureau of Parks and Lands, West Grand Lake Community Forest, Augusta, Maine – \$6,675,000.

The West Grand Lake Community Forest will protect 21,700 acres of forestland in the Downeast Lakes region of eastern Maine. The property includes over 17 miles of lakeshore, 90 miles of stream frontage, and 3,000 wetland acres. The conservation easement to be held by the Department of Conservation will ensure sustainable forest management and public recreational access. The project will preserve and enhance the Maine timber economy and Grand Lake Stream's 180 year outdoor recreation heritage. Forest Legacy funding is critical to the success of this community-driven effort. The West Grand Lake Community Forest Project is the Department's top priority and is the number one national priority for the Forest Legacy Program by the U.S. Forest Service and in the President's budget request.

Maine Department of Conservation Bureau of Parks and Lands, Katahdin Forest Expansion, Augusta, Maine – \$3,325,000.

This project will conserve 32,000 acres of working forest, thus providing jobs, wood products, popular recreation opportunities, and wildlife conservation all contributing to Maine's economy and quality of life. Recreation values protected include public use of interstate snowmobile trail linkage between Moosehead Lake and Baxter State Park, fishing, hunting, and hiking across the parcel, camping along the West Branch of the Pleasant River, and access to Gulf Hagas and the Appalachian Trail. This project has been designed to maximize and conserve in perpetuity economic, ecological, and recreational values that include working forest, interstate and local snowmobile trail systems, hunting, hiking, fishing, camping and paddling opportunities, access and buffering for Gulf Hagas and 11 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and biodiversity protection for rare, threatened, and endangered wildlife and plants.

As protection of forestland values including working forest, outdoor recreation, and wildlife conservation from permanent site conversion is the multiple purpose goal of this project through conservation easement, it is an ideal match to the USDA Forest Legacy Program founded to protect this very same range of values. This project was the number two ranked project by the state of Maine, was included in the President's FY2011 budget, and will build on and physically connect multiple previous Forest Legacy Projects and other land conservation initiatives.

Maine Department of Marine Resources - Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat, Penobscot River Restoration Project, Augusta, Maine – \$2,000,000.

To implement eco-system wide restoration of Penobscot River, the funding request will support ancillary needs that will improve economic opportunities for business along the river and benefit endangered species. For example, the removal of the Great Works Dam and impoundment in Old Town, Maine, will eliminate the process water source for the

Old Town Fuel and Fiber pulp mill, which currently employs 200 people. Under a federal (DOE) grant, the mill is developing commercial scale biofuel production from pulping by products. The mill has historically been a pulp mill and this is still one component of its operations today. As a result of two years of engineering work, the Penobscot River Restoration Trust and the mill have agreed upon the design for a replacement water intake system that will cost an estimated \$5.5 million. This system consists of pumps located in the mill that will pump water directly from an in-river structure.

The \$2 million will be matched by state jobs/economic bond and Maine energy efficiency funding and state River bond and other sources to meet the total need of \$5.5 million. This is an excellent opportunity to leverage both economic/community development and natural resource goals by helping secure a more energy efficient intake system designed to be safe for fisheries including endangered Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish.

Rural Water Associations' EPA Training and Technical Assistance, Source Water Protection and Groundwater Protection Initiatives; Support Requested by the Maine Rural Water Association (MRWA), Nationwide – \$16,800,000.

Maine's rural communities heavily rely on the Rural Water Association for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act, as well as other federal and state laws. Rural Water technical assistance and on-site guidance is the backbone of small community compliance and environmental compliance. Communities depend on Rural Water to protect their drinking water quality. With the ever-increasing expansion of federal water regulations and water quality regulation, the Association's assistance is needed now more than ever. Under MRWA's Training and Technical Assistance program, it provided necessary training on Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Response Plans. Rural communities often lose sight of the need for emergency preparedness. One of the primary focuses of the MRWA's EPA Training and Technical Assistance Program has been on the Disinfection Byproduct Rule (DBPR). MRWA provided training and assistance to approximately 25 surface water systems that have MCL violations as a result of the new Rule. By hosting roundtable discussions with affected water systems and the Maine Drinking Water Program, MRWA was able to provide much needed guidance to systems struggling with the DBPR. Having a firm understanding of the intricate details of the Rule, as well as the administrative process (such as consent orders, administrative orders, etc.) will provide the water systems with the education necessary to comply with the DBPR. Additionally, many of Maine's public water systems will need to comply with the new groundwater rule. These systems rely on MRWA to understand which systems will become regulated and the necessary steps for compliance.

Monhegan Historical & Cultural Museum Association, Inc., Restoration at the Monhegan Island Light Station, Monhegan Island, ME – \$80,000.

The Monhegan Light Station is owned and maintained by the Monhegan Island Museum. This working lighthouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed in 1824 and each year since has guided many thousands of ships through the dangerous mid-Maine coastal waters. For many of the ships, it is the first light they encountered in North America on their trips from Europe. The condition of the buildings, which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is threatening their stature as a National Treasure and their effectiveness as a mid-coast Maine navigational aid. The project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it would preserve an important piece of America's heritage while helping to protect the lives and safety of passengers and crews on thousands of ships that pass the island every year.

Resources First Foundation, RFF Websites: Privatelandownernetwork (PLN), Conservationtaxcenter(CTC), and Ranchbook, Yarmouth, Maine – \$300,000.

RFF websites are the largest source of conservation information on both federal and state programs on the internet. Importantly they include the largest compendium of non-public service providers in the US, every Ag extension office, every Conservation District, every Land Trust, over 1,000 attorneys, over 2,000 consulting foresters, clean fuel, green building, and energy conservation service providers. The sites drive business to the businesses serving rural America. Many government agencies use the sites and refer landowners to them. Many FWS Partners offices refer landowners to PLN on a daily basis. Traffic to the sites has doubled every year since 2003.

The sites are more effective than any federal or state sites. They are free to public viewers and cost one-tenth of federal funding of comparable sites. The sites are free market, non-advocacy, and serve to drive business to businesses serving rural America, and support jobs across our rural economy. RFF sites provide one stop shopping for every program relating to land conservation, community supported agriculture, clean fuels, energy conservation, and green building. With the federal budget constraints and 48 of 50 states facing huge deficits, a cheap, easy, cost effective mechanism is needed to encourage conservation stewardship across rural America. RFF websites are the leading national internet provider of Conservation information, and a Maine success story of national repute.

Town of Stockton Springs, Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities, Stockton Springs, Maine – \$500,000.

The proposed project will consist of the construction of a new wastewater collection, transport, and treatment facilities for the downtown village of Stockton Springs. The proposed wastewater facilities will serve approximately 280 existing and 750 future residential, commercial, and municipal businesses sewer users. The proposed project will

replace failing and shared subsurface disposal systems; protect private groundwater sources; protect Stockton Harbor; and stimulate economic development and the creation of new jobs along the Route 1 and 1A corridor.

University of Maine, Northern States Research Cooperative (NSRC), Orono, Maine – \$1,900,000.

Funding Maine's share of the NSRC program greatly enhances Maine's ability to assure sustained productivity of the Acadian forest. The long-term effects of different modes of harvesting need to be addressed in terms of their effects on growth and yield, genetic diversity of crop trees, the benefits of trying to manage for late-successional forest types, and the maintenance of environmental quality. In addition, efforts on the genetic improvement of crop trees, like the development of disease resistant white pine and the strategic importance of high yield plantations can be expanded to improve overall quantity and quality of raw material. Management of Maine's hardwood resource badly needs additional resources to address stand improvement practices and the effects of harvesting practices on residual crop trees. The Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) was authorized by Congress to support cross-disciplinary, integrative, and collaborative research on ecosystems, economic development, community development, forest products, and conservation efforts to benefit the 26-million-acre Northern Forest. Partners in the NSRC include the USFS, the University of Maine, the University of Vermont, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in NY, and the University of New Hampshire.