

Select Excerpts from Comments Submitted to Department of Interior
During Review of National Monuments, May-July, 2017

(DOI Document ID Number can be searched at www.regulations.gov)

Gail Fanjoy, Katahdin region; Katahdin Chamber of Commerce (DOI-2017-0002-57669)

"All winter, snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers have been able to enjoy access to the monument's lands and we're looking forward to a strong visitor season this summer. Maine has long been known as Vacationland, but tourists rarely ventured from our state's beautiful coast into the interior. That's starting to change."

Dan Corcoran, North Woods Real Estate Agency, Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-14432)

"The Monument has been a welcome boost to our local economy in the short nine months since its creation and it has the potential to continue to grow our economy in the years ahead. I've witnessed firsthand the positive effect of the Monument in our local real estate market."

Terry and Craig Hill, Owners, Shin Pond Village, Mt. Chase, ME (DOI-2017-002-144614)

"We are asking you to look at what the newly designated Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has brought to our area, HOPE for a region that desperately needs HOPE! We participated in dozens of meetings to discuss what could work for our region. Our business has seen a 20% increase in inquiries to visit the new designated monument! We believe that the newly designated KWW National Monument will be the economic driver that helps turn our communities around."

Kevin Parker, Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-38818)

"Just miles from my house, the newly-created Katahdin Woods and Waters monument is already bringing new life to our city in the form of tourist dollars, while also preserving the beauty of our great state for generations to come."

Peter and Mary Lucas, Lincoln, ME (DOI-2017-0002-81169)

"We have been residents of the area (Lincoln, ME) since the 1960s. Never has a project of this promise and magnitude come our way. The Monument is truly spectacular."

Earl Stanley, Medway, ME (DOI-2017-0002-127392)

"Katahdin Woods & Waters is a spectacular place to conserve for Americans, and a vital addition to Maine's tourism destinations that is already contributing to the region's struggling economy. Businesses are investing, tourism is growing, and real estate sales are on the rise."

Tony Madden, Milford, ME (DOI-2017-0002-57678)

"I am a Maine logger, I believe the Katahdin forest national monument is now settled and we should make the best of it."

Kate Reilly deLutio, Morrill, ME (DOI-2017-0002-143209)

"As a longtime Maine resident and former State Economist, I have seen the Millinocket region struggle to find an economic path through the decades-long decline of manufacturing and the forest products industry. The creation of this monument is the first significant, positive development in years. Removing the monument would be short-sighted."

Lindsey Downing, Mt. Chase Lodge Owner, Mt. Chase, ME (DOI-2017-0002-22694)

"I knew that the designation of a new National Monument would bring new hope to old businesses and citizens of the area and that's exactly what it has done. We spoke at town council meetings, we talked with local officials, we spoke in favor of the monument at the hearing in Orono, Maine where citizens of the state were given the opportunity to express their concerns with the potential monument. If this gets taken away, we lose any and all sense of pride that we have worked so hard to re-develop over the past years."

Marjorie Rosenbaum, Mainer (DOI-2017-0002-12764)

"I am a 76 year old Maine resident and taxpayer 100% in support of Katahdin Woods and Waters designation as a National Monument. Tourism is a major business in our relatively poor state, attracting national and international visitors. People of northern Maine who initially feared change now see opportunity where there had been only hopelessness."

Dianna Cookson, Dixmont, ME (DOI-2017-0002-127932)

"I have visited Katahdin Woods and Waters twice since it was designated. It is spectacular! In October I rode mountain bikes along the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The rapids were imposing and the view of Billfish and Horse mountain was gorgeous. I was astounded that anyone could look at this amazing place and not think that it warranted protection for future generations."

John Lee, Medway, ME (DOI-2017-0002-127696)

"Maine people and elected officials overwhelmingly oppose any action that would modify Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. Three of Maine's four members of Congress; three Maine State Legislators who represent the region; and local elected officials from Millinocket, East Millinocket, Patten, Medway, and Sherman all oppose Monument review."

Roberta Beavers, South Berwick, ME (DOI-2017-0002-127932)

"As a retired Maine legislator who keeps in touch with constituents, I can assure you the majority of Maine people want this designation to stay both for enjoyment and for the economic development it has brought and is bringing to a region hard hit by the recent loss of a major paper mill."

Dave O'Connor, Island Falls, ME (Born in Millinocket) (DOI-2017-0002-0952)

"I hope my great grandchildren will get to see and use this great Maine treasure. I already see SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS HAVE INVESTED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS in the belief that the KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT is here to stay."

Chip Lamson, Lamson Funeral Home, East Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-2340)

"Through many venues and opportunities, supporters and detractors alike spoke their minds, engaged in conversations, and made their voices heard. Businesses have begun preparing for the future, investing in their facilities and services offered, which increases quality of life for visitors and residents alike."

Paul Lamoreau, Katahdin region (DOI-2017-0002-75607)

"..many small local businesses depend on the tourist trade and this monument designation is already having a positive effect on them. It makes absolutely no sense to rescind or take it away."

Taylor Sulander, Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-8977)

"..take away Katahdin Woods and Waters and you're not only taking away my future career but something magic that everyone deserves to see. I graduated from Stearns High School in 2011, and promptly moved back to New York, then to England, then back to New York, back to England, and all the time I was looking for my 'home.' Little did I know that my home was in the shadow of Katahdin. I am furious that I have to be writing this right now. I am furious with LePage for gambling with one of Maine's treasures."

John Achard, Vienna, ME (DOI-2017-0002-57945)

"I am a resident of a very small town in Maine's 2nd Congressional District and I support the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Prior to the designation I attended a very large public meeting held at the University of Maine. There, both proponents and opponents had ample opportunity to voice their views to the Director of the National Park Service. I am also aware that the Director held additional public meetings in the Katahdin area. "

Comments from group of elected officials, Katahdin region (DOI-2017-0002-57665)

"Some of us opposed the National Monument before it was created. Some of us supported it. And some of us took no public position before it was created. However, now that the Monument has been created, all of us are united in our desire to see it continue and succeed. Although the Monument is less than a year old, already some businesses in the region have experienced an uptick in activity. Real estate sales have picked up. The communities have begun to heal from the divisiveness that existed during the debate about the Monument. Our communities now have hope again."

John D. Judge, President and CEO, Appalachian Mountain Club (DOI-2017-0002-139462)

"Real estate prices are climbing in the Katahdin region, and more homes are being sold. A new, \$5 million private investment has been announced that will further build on the budding outdoor recreation economy in the region. And CNN has named Katahdin Woods and Waters one of 17 places in the world to visit in 2017."

William Martell, Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-127695)

"I feel the new 'National Monument' helps all of Northern Maine and not just the local area."

Maria Knowlton, Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-09490)

"Katahdin Woods & Waters is a spectacular place to conserve for Americans, and a vital addition to Maine's tourism destinations that is already contributing to the region's struggling economy. Members of Maine's Congressional delegation and the National Park Service held numerous public listening sessions where supporters greatly outnumbered opponents."

Will Greene, Mount Desert Island, ME (DOI-2017-0002-164413)

"The Katahdin region is so incredible because it is in the heart of Maine, a place where wilderness still exists. Revoking or shrinking the monument would be a great disservice to the people of Maine and the people of the United States."

Barbara Rausch, Portland, ME (DOI-2017-0002-9008)

"As a resident of Maine, I would like to say the Katahdin Woods and Waters Monument is a unique area that has been gifted to the people of Maine as well as others to utilize in a

sustainable way... It is good for that area of Maine; it's good for Maine and it's good for our country.”

Lee White, Hampden, ME (DOI-2017-0002-14894)

“We firmly believe the new National Monument is an exciting destination that will attract new visitors to Maine's inland forests, rivers, wildlife, and mountains, and the communities and businesses nearby. We also are confident that the National Monument over time will attract new residents to the region and that the combination of new visitors and residents will provide a badly needed economic boost to our region and the businesses located here.”

Mainer (DOI-2017-0002-0939)

“Today I am studying Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, take away Katahdin Woods and Waters and you're not only taking away my future career but something magic that everyone deserves to see. People don't become guides for themselves, but to show the beauty of the world to others.”

Resident, Smithfield, ME (DOI-2017-0002-6909)

“The Monument was established after years of discussion, debate, and public input, involving thousands of people and relevant stakeholders in a statewide conversation. The Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, Maine Innkeepers Association, hundreds of businesses and key stakeholders, and thousands of Mainers supported national designation of these lands in the years leading up to its establishment as a monument.”

Sheryl Gray, Skowhegan, ME (DOI-2017-0002-3425)

“Maine is a beautiful state and we are looking ahead toward the future of tourism beyond our coast, and in our beautiful Mount Katahdin area. The nearby park, Baxter State Park, has grown so busy that crowds have to be maintained and limited in the summer time. The National Monument will provide more access and opportunity for people who wish to experience the beauty of this area.”

Paul Johnson, Oakland, ME (DOI-2017-0002-388230)

“The Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument represents a very small portion of the Maine Woods along the Penobscot River's East Branch. It is located near I-95 so its impacts on Maine's working forests and forest products industries will be minimal. It provides a wonderful opportunity to tell the stories of the Maine Woods, just as Acadia National Park portrays Maine's rugged coast, its history, and its resources.”

A. Kelley, East Millinocket, ME (DOI-2017-0002-364639)

“I am in FULL support of Katahdin Woods & Water's National Monument to remain and grow. I was born and raised in East Millinocket, Maine. This idea was promoted in full, there were many meetings, so many opportunities for folks to be involved and understand more about this throughout the process leading up to the designation. I truly believe every effort was made to accommodate all needs on every level. So many folks were fearful of the unknown and are now very happy about what has become and what will be planned and allowed for this area. I urge you all to please let this wonderful gift flourish, help my hometown area survive and along with so many enjoy this wonder of the world, the beauty that it brings and the growth to a devastated area hit by economic change. Please, please work with us, not against us and keeping the Monument and creating the wonderful space that it is, thank-you.”