Thank you, Governor LePage, for the opportunity to speak about Acadia National Park, Maine’s most visited destination.

I’m Ken Olson, retired president of Friends of Acadia, which has granted $15 million to the park and communities and developed $16 million in private endowments to benefit Maine forever.

Three bullet points:

- **One.** Acadia had 2.5 million visits last year. The visitors spent $156 million, which paid for 3,000 Maine jobs.

- **Two.** Acadia’s Island Explorer bus system that serves private hotels, shops, and restaurants, carried 400,000 people. We think of it as a delivery device that carries money from the park to these businesses.

- **Three.** Maine’s commercial timberlands produce $370 per acre per year in direct and indirect benefits. Acadia produces $3,400 per acre.

Proper resource extraction is hugely positive. It’s equally true that remarkable places, comprehensively protected, can themselves create and help sustain markets and capitalism.

Finally, Governor, the president of Friends of Acadia, Marla O’Byrne, and the superintendent of Acadia National Park, Sheridan Steele, invite you and your family to visit this summer—to enjoy Acadia’s natural splendor and see firsthand its phenomenal economic power.

Thank you.
In 2008. Rounded from estimated actual of $155,608,000 in “non-local visitor spending” and not counting $5,458,000 in National Park Service payroll spending, which makes total spending of $161,066,000. Ibid.

