

Support for a New National Park and National Recreation Area*

Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce

“The Board of Directors of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce (KACC) is writing to ask that you support the creation of the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Park and National Recreation Area. We believe that this substantial investment in our region will strengthen the local economy, create new jobs and help to turn the tide on the declining population in the Katahdin Region.”

Greater Houlton Chamber of Commerce

“We believe that a new national park and national recreation area would provide a welcome economic boost to our community. We would welcome both the visitors who would come to visit the park and the new year round residents that a new national park and national recreation area would attract to this region.”

Bangor City Council

“The City of Bangor supports the concept of a National Park and National Recreation Area while encouraging continued discussions within the communities immediately surrounding the proposed park and among communities in the entire region regarding continued economic diversification of the Greater Bangor and Katahdin Regions.”

Maine Innkeepers Association

“Creation of a national park and national recreation area on up to 150,000 acres east of Baxter State Park would introduce visitors to a landscape of vast forestlands, beautiful rivers, breathtaking scenery, stunning wildlife, and diverse recreation opportunities... We hope that you will support this project as it moves forward.”

Letter from 200 Maine Businesses to Maine’s Congressional Delegation

“We believe a new National Park and National Recreation Area near Katahdin could be an exciting destination that introduces visitors to Maine’s inland forests, rivers, wildlife and mountains, and the communities and businesses nearby.”

Wagner Forest Management LTD

Tom Colgan, President and CEO

“I believe this area of Maine could use the economic diversity of a national park, and the existence of a new park would not have a deleterious effect on the forest product industry.”

5 Lakes Lodge, Millinocket

Rick LeVasseur

“As owners of 5 Lakes Lodge we firmly support any and all efforts to create a National Park on the eastern border of Baxter State Park. A new National Park would be a tremendous boon to the economy of the entire region and we sincerely hope that it comes to fruition.”

Epic Sports

Brad Ryder, Owner

“A National Park and National Recreation Area would put the [Katahdin region] on the map and attract more out-of-state and international visitors. This would be good news to me, as well as to any other business owner that would benefit from increased traffic through Bangor. I look forward to recommending to future park visitors who stop by my store how best to enjoy the area – I’ve been in person and can’t speak highly enough of it.”

Katahdin Friends, Inc.

Gail Fanjoy, CEO

“We ask that you join us in support of the creation of a new national park and national recreation area in the Katahdin region. We ask that you do so with the sense of urgency that the situation demands. We believe this project is the resuscitation needed to breathe new life into the Katahdin region.”

*Excerpts from statements and letters to Congressional Delegation.



March 4, 2014

The Honorable Susan Collins Olivia Kurtz, Leg. Assistant, Olivia.Kurtz@collins.senate.gov

RE: Letter of Support, Katahdin Woods & Waters National Park & National Recreation Area

Dear Senator Collins:

The Board of Directors of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce (KACC) is writing to ask that you support the creation of the above referenced National Park and National Recreation Area. We believe that this substantial investment in our region will strengthen the local economy, create new jobs and help to turn the tide on the declining population in the Katahdin Region.

The KACC currently serves 140 members in the communities of Millinocket, East Millinocket, Medway, Lincoln, Patten, Sherman, Brownville and surrounding unorganized townships, as well as member businesses and organizations in Greenville, Skowhegan, Augusta, Ashland, Mt. Chase, Springfield, Hampden and Presque Isle. Our mission includes, but is not limited to, assisting in the development of recreation and tourism businesses and opportunities related to our local natural resources to provide jobs for people in the Katahdin Region; and, encouraging and assisting with community developments that result in improvements to the business and community infrastructure in the Katahdin Region.

Elliotsville Plantation, a privately owned, Maine-based foundation, would like to donate up to 150,000 acres of land to create a National Park and National Recreation Area (NRA) (75,000 acres respectively) east of Baxter State Park along the East Branch of the Penobscot River. In addition, Elliotsville Plantation would create a substantial endowment for the permanent maintenance and operation of the park and recreation area.

The National Park would provide hiking, bicycling, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, camping, paddling, fishing, wildlife watching, horseback riding and scenic drives as well as the preservation of natural, historic and cultural resources. The National Recreation Area (NRA) would allow hunting and snowmobiling as well as the aforementioned recreational activities.

Headwaters Economics, an independent nonprofit research group that assists the public and elected officials in making informed land management and community development decisions, outlines the economic benefits of a new National Park and NRA for Penobscot and Piscataquis counties in two comprehensive studies as well as a summary report of the two studies' findings, all available at <http://headwaterseconomics.org/land/reports/katahdin>. The reports were created using independent data and conservative methodology, and have been peer reviewed by leading Maine economists, including Charles Colgan, David Vail and Rob Lillieholm, who verified that the studies' approach and findings were sound.

The KACC encourages you to review this information. It provides compelling evidence of the value of National Parks and National Recreation Areas to 16 communities similar to the two-county region in Maine.

The economic performance, diversifying economies, and potential job creation findings were positive and telling, especially in peer regions with National Parks alone or with National Parks with nearby National Recreation Areas; but were not as consistent in peer regions with NRAs alone.

The reports also found that the impact on the timber industry on 150,000 acres of private land would be extremely small. The land is 80 percent forested and could produce, at most, 120,000 tons of green fiber per year, representing less than one percent of Maine's annual fiber utilization. Sustainable forestry on this amount of acreage would employ 21 people to bring the wood to the mills, and it is unlikely that this would produce more mill jobs. At most, with indirect jobs in mind, annual overall timber operations could potentially yield a total of 50 local jobs. It is understood by the Board of Directors of KACC that this is irrelevant in that the current owners of this property do not plan to harvest the timber in the absence of a National Park, except for minimal harvesting for wildlife habitat maintenance.

For those concerned about its impact on industry, since the establishment of the Clean Air Act in 1977, there are no examples where air quality standards of a region have been made more stringent due to the establishment of a new National Park.

With the declining population and loss of a great part of our primary industry in the Katahdin Region, the KACC Board of Directors views the possibility of this National Park and NRA, with its abundant and unique forestland, rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands, spectacular falls, rare plant species and interesting geological features (such as Haskell Rock and Grand Pitch), as a potential avenue for viable, long-term employment. The economic reports predict a National Park and National Recreation Area would create approximately 1,000 jobs in both the private and public sectors, and would strengthen tourism and recreation in the region.

It is also reasonable when considering a broader economic strategy that the communities surrounding the National Park and NRA would optimize the potential benefits with improved educational facilities, services and municipal infrastructure, thereby creating even more jobs.

The proud heritage of the Katahdin Region will be sustained if we are able to include conscientious tourism and recreation in the economic equation. The region's awe-inspiring natural resources are a gift to be cherished and shared. Elliottsville Plantation is offering a piece of this gift, preserved for generations to come in the form of this National Park and NRA. It is important to our communities that our native sons and daughters, as well as others with love for this area, have a reason and a means to live and thrive here, growing their families and bringing businesses, industries and prosperity to the Katahdin Region.

It is with all of this in mind as well as our mission components stated above and the thoughtful consideration of this proposal, that the Board of Directors of the Katahdin Region Chamber of Commerce hereby offers its enthusiastic support for the 150,000-acre Katahdin Woods & Waters

National Park and National Recreation Area, and we encourage you, our forward-thinking delegation, to review the reports mentioned above and to lend your support to this endeavor.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter of support.

Sincerely,

The Board of Directors, Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce

Officers:

President: Tom Malcolm (Millinocket Fire Department)

Email: 301tm@myfairpoint.net

Vice President: Larry MacArthur, (Larry's Wood Products, Inc.)

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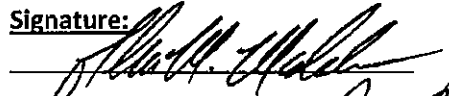
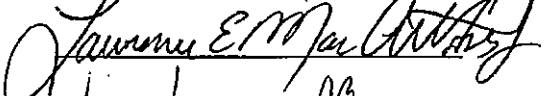
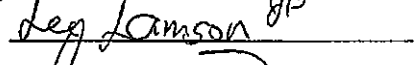
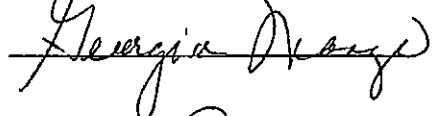
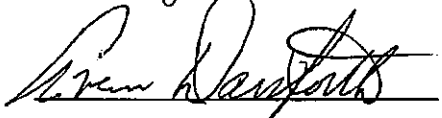

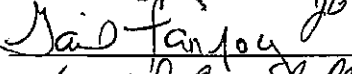


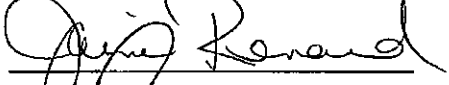
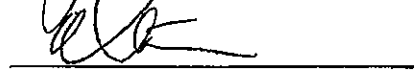

Deb Rountree (Katahdin Region Higher Education Center)

Email: dvoisine@maine.edu

Lisa McLaughlin (The Scotts Company)

Email: Lisa.mclaughlin@scotts.com

Signature:

AS AMENDED
15-120
MARCH 23, 2015

Assigned to Faircloth



CITY OF BANGOR

RESOLVE, Supporting the Concept of a National Park and National Recreation Area As One Component of a Diversified Economy in the Katahdin Region

WHEREAS, the Bangor City Council respects the important economic and cultural relationships that closely tie the City and communities located in the Katahdin Region; and

WHEREAS, the one hundredth anniversary of the National Park Service is in 2016, providing a unique opportunity for creation of this new National Park and National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, the Bangor City Council supports the ongoing effort to develop a new economic development vision and strategies in and beyond the Katahdin Region that will provide important context for the evaluation of opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Elliotsville Plantation Inc. has proposed to give up to 150,000 acres of land surrounding Baxter State Park to the federal government for the creation of a National Park and a National Recreation Area; and

WHEREAS, it is important to support the diversification of the economy in the Greater Bangor and Katahdin regions, and the National Park and National Recreation Area could offer one component of economic diversification in the regions, regions that also supports valued forest products and natural resource uses and activities; and

WHEREAS, recent mill closures in the region including Millinocket, Bucksport, Old Town and others has made the need to act to create jobs for our region urgent; and

WHEREAS, the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area could bring new jobs in the tourism, hospitality, and retail industries while preserving traditional forest products activities, natural resource uses, and recreation activities; and

WHEREAS, the Bangor City Council urges all members of our congressional delegation and civic organizations to support the region's effort to develop strategies leading to economic diversification and to become actively engaged in discussions surrounding the proposed park; and

WHEREAS, there is support for the creation of a National Park and National Recreation Area from the Town of Medway and the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Millinocket and East Millinocket are engaged in ongoing, consensus-building discussion,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR, THAT

The City of Bangor supports the concept of a National Park and National Recreation Area while encouraging continued discussions within the communities immediately surrounding the proposed park and among communities in the entire region regarding continued economic diversification of the Greater Bangor and Katahdin Regions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR, THAT

Lisa Goodwin, City Clerk, send a copy of this Resolve to all members of the State of Maine's Congressional delegation.

IN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 23, 2015

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED FOR PASSAGE

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO AMEND RESOLVE

15-120 BY SUBSTITUTION

MOTION PASSED

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED FOR PASSAGE AS AMENDED

NOTE: 7-2

COUNCILORS VOTING YES: BALDACCII, BLANCHETTE, FAIRCLOTH,

GRAHAM, PLOURDE, SPRAGUE, DURGIN

COUNCILORS VOTING NO: CIVIELLO, NEALLEY

PASSED AS AMENDED

Kevin Q. Hodson

CITY CLERK

June 28, 2014

The Honorable Susan Collins
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

I am writing to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Maine Innkeepers Association recently voted to endorse the most recent proposal by Elliotsville Plantation Inc. (EPI) to create a national park and national recreation area on land east of Baxter State Park.

We have been pleased to learn of the outreach that EPI has done to residents and businesses in the Katahdin Region, which has helped EPI shape the proposal and earn local support—including from the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce.

We recognize that the project is still a work in progress and that congressional legislation will be needed. However, the Maine Innkeepers Association supports the current concept, which could be a significant new destination for people interested in seeing a spectacular part of inland Maine that is often overlooked.

Creation of a national park and national recreation area on up to 150,000 acres east of Baxter State Park would introduce visitors to a landscape of vast forestlands, beautiful rivers, breathtaking scenery, stunning wildlife, and diverse recreation opportunities. We are pleased that snowmobiling and hunting would be allowed in the national recreation area, while the national park would feature the many wonderful experiences and programs that visitors of national parks have come to know and expect.

Maine innkeepers and other businesses benefit substantially from tourism associated with Acadia National Park. Similarly, a new national park and national recreation area would provide significant benefits to communities in the area and along travel routes.

Data suggests that people who visit national parks spend, on average, a day in the park and two or three additional days in the area visiting other attractions. As such, a new national park and national recreation area could benefit many recreation, lodging, retail, and hospitality businesses across Maine. This would be a welcome development for rural communities and businesses that face challenges in the current economy.

Many of our members did not support earlier, larger concepts for a national park in northern Maine, but EPI's proposal is a manageable size and has garnered local support, which is important to us. We hope that you will support this project as it moves forward.

Sincerely,

Greg Dugal
President and CEO
Maine Innkeepers Association

Maine Businesses in Support of a New National Park and National Recreation Area

March 26, 2015

To Maine's Congressional Delegation:

We, the undersigned Maine business men and women, are contacting you to express our support for creation of a new National Park and National Recreation Area in the Katahdin Region, as proposed by Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. (EPI). We urge you to support this project, which has been carefully developed with input from local residents and business owners.

We are fortunate to live in a state like Maine with its wonderful natural resources that are enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Acadia National Park is one of Maine's great destinations, drawing millions of people annually to the area's spectacular coast and unique geology. In a similar fashion, we believe a new National Park and National Recreation Area near Katahdin could be an exciting destination that introduces visitors to Maine's inland forests, rivers, wildlife, and mountains, and the communities and businesses nearby.

Economic studies show that a new National Park and National Recreation Area located east of Baxter State Park could provide more than 450 direct and indirect jobs. These studies show that rural locations across the U.S. that currently have a National Park or National Recreation Area have experienced stronger economic growth over the past forty years than the U.S. as a whole. Thus, EPI's proposal to donate the land and create a \$40 million endowment for operating costs, could be very beneficial for towns and businesses in Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties, in particular.

Filmmaker Ken Burns has described our national park system as "America's best idea." People are drawn to America's national parks because they provide exceptional opportunities to experience our natural world in an accessible way. EPI's proposal includes both a National Park component, with all the features that people have come to know and expect in a National Park, and also a National Recreation Area where snowmobiling and hunting also would be allowed. The result would be a powerful combination of recreation opportunities that would attract visitors year-round. To us, this seems like a great idea for the region and the state as a whole.

For these reasons, we hope you also will support EPI's proposal for a new National Park and National Recreation Area on up to 150,000 acres east of Baxter State Park.

Sincerely,

86 This!, Ellsworth
Jeffery Kelly-Lokocz

A Straight Stitch, Brewer
Jeff Norton

Acme Pizza & Wing Co., Orono
Steven Kilmurran

Allspeed Cyclery, Portland
Mike Davies

Androscoggin Wooden Boatworks,
Wayne, Chris Cushman

Aqua Pura, Bangor
Bernadette Gaspar

Attitudes Salon, Bangor
Ann Lucas

Attitudes Salon, Waterville
Naomi Plourde

Bagel Central, Bangor
Sonya Eldridge

Bam Bam Bakery, Portland
Bevin McNulty

Bangor Wine and Cheese Co.,
Bangor, Christine Mihan

Bar Harbor Bicycle Shop,
Bar Harbor, Albert Minutolo

Berry's Stationary, Waterville
Michael Givone

Between Friends, Inc., Brewer
Tracy Marceron

Big J's Pizza, Bangor
Jolena Glidden

Bike, Board & Ski, Presque Isle
Thomas Chase Jr.

Black Point Surf Shop, Scarborough,
Crystal Ouimette

Blue Heron, LLC, Bangor
Chelsea Brown

Body Graphics Tattoo Studio,
Brewer, Sydney Winship

Bread of Life Bulk Foods,
Presque Isle, Cheryle Matowitz

Bumpy Road Studio, Eddington
Rosalita Feero

Busytown Bikes, Lewiston
Francois Jalbert

Cara Romano Studio Jewlery,
Ellsworth, Cara Romano

Celtic Moon Rising, Brewer
Lorie Garnett

Charlotte Lorrianes Consignment,
Bangor, Betty McCarty

Cherry Stones Restaurant, Bar
Harbor, Meghan Bishop

Children's Book cellar, Waterville
Ellen Richmond

Chocolate, Bar Harbor
Christopher Marcial

Choppin' Cotton Quilts, Bangor
Barbara Ewing

Cigar & Smoke Shoppe, Bangor
Frank Coglitore

Corner Store, Bangor
Barbara Cyr

**Cottage Street Restaurant and
Bakery**, Bar Harbor, Richard Fisher

Country North Gifts, Houlton
Shannon Cibic

Cyclemania, Portland
Eddie Quinn

Diane Country Craft & Gift Shop,
Old Town, Diane Richard

Dick's Barber Shop, Orono
Deidra Fournier

Downeast Coins & Collectibles,
Bangor, Dixie Barone

Downtown Smoothie, Waterville
Mark Cunningham

Dream Dress Bridal, Brewer
Holli Owsley

Dreamcatcher Antiques, Ellsworth
Thomas Sawyer

Echo Salon, Bar Harbor
Jefferson De Lima

Eclipse Gallery, Bar Harbor
Ruddy C.

Eden Rising, Bar Harbor
Delia Cyanic

Epic Sports, Bangor
Brad Ryder

Everex (Edge Video), Bangor
Sadie Flood

Evergreen Pottery, Bar Harbor
H. Scott Stevens

Fago Electric, Brewer
Robert Fago Jr.

Fetch Grooming, Brewer
Sherri Therrien

Fin Back Ale House, Bar Harbor
Evelina Kacprzykowska

Finns Irish Pub, Ellsworth
Lorena Sterns

Frank's Bake Shop, Bangor
Bernadette Gaspar

Fringe, Orono
Emily Herlihy

Generations Boutique, Brewer
Roxanne Noddin

Gorham Bike & Ski, Portland
Jamie Wright

Grasshopper Shop of Ellsworth,
Ellsworth, Linda Beauvais

Hair After, Orono
Phoebe Trask

Hair Designs, Bangor
Dawn Godin

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| Hand Me Down Antiques, Presque Isle, Eva Kirk | Maine Discovery Museum, Bangor Niles Parker | Old Creamery Antique Shop, Ellsworth, Timmy Torrey |
| Harraseeket Inn, Freeport Rodney Gray | Maine Made And More, Waterville Emilos Zirtidis | One Lupin Fiber Arts, Bangor Jodi Clayton |
| Harvest Moon Deli, Orono Meg Philippon | Maine State Sea Kayak, Southwest Harbor, Robert Aho | Orono Pharmacy, Orono Ali Aghamousa |
| Heads Up, Presque Isle Tish Tuttle | Maple Hill Farm Inn & Conference Center, Hallowell, Scott Cowger | Orono Thriftway, Orono Khan Mohmand |
| House of Brides, Bangor Jill Hunter-Smith | Mark's Music, Brewer Mark Braremon | Orvis Freeport Outlet, Freeport Aly Fox |
| Ichiban, Bangor Ruai Luie | Massimo's, Bangor Steven Beaulieu | Patkus Guitars, Waterville Dennis Patkus |
| Ipanema Bar & Grill, Bangor Megan Marquis | Merchants on the Corner, Presque Isle, Chantel Graves | Pat's Bike Shop, Brewer Scott Seymore |
| Island Falls Canoe, Atkinson Jerry Stelmok | Metropolitan Soul, Bangor Tracy Monaghan | Peekytoe Provisions, Bar Harbor Drew Smith |
| J + B Atlantic Co., Ellsworth Aziza Daigle | Mexicali Blues, Bangor Pete Erskine | Personal Hair Styles, Waterville Beverly Kelly |
| Jasons Pizza, Brewer Sandra Olmstead | Mini Music & Tack Shop, New Limerick, Cheryl Tarly | Pet Pro, Bangor Alex Young |
| Jean's Serendipity, Houlton Richard Slout | Modern Beauty Salon, Houlton Linda Pilsbury | Pine State Trading Co., Gardiner Nick Alberding |
| Knapps Music, Bangor Daniel Meck | Mojo Outdoor Sports, Presque Isle Mark Fullen | Queen Anne's Flowershop, Bar Harbor, Maureen McGuire |
| Larsen's Jewelry, Waterville Mark Larsen | Morning Star Art & Framing, Presque Isle, Brian Brissette | R & C In Home Care, East Millinocket, Rick McLaughlin |
| Lebreeze Delivery Service, Old Town, Timothy Richard | Morton's Moo, Ellsworth Kirsten Henry | Raegamuffins Bakery, Veazie Rachel Eugley |
| Lee Auto Mall, Topsham Adam Lee | National Park Sea Kayak Tours, Bar Harbor, Robert Aho | Rainbow Bicycles, Lewiston John Grenier |
| Lougee & Fredrick's, Inc., Bangor Linda Murphy | Nocturnem Draft Haus, Bangor Bryan Young | Rebecca's Gift Shop, Bangor John Spellman |
| Loyal Biscuit Co., Waterville Chelsie Herrin | Nomads, Portland Kelly Fernald | Reboot Computer Services, Brewer Gerald Jenkins |
| Madlyn's, Waterville Melissa Holmwood | Northeast Reprographics, Bangor Benjamin Metzger | re-Imagined, Houlton Jamie McKay |
| Main St. Barber and Beauty, Brewer Coleen Patterson | Oasis Salon, Presque Isle Jean Brawn | Remedy Salon + Sap, Waterville Kelly Paquette |

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| Richard Parks furniture , Ellsworth Aaron Piacentini | Syncopation Software , Bangor Chris Dalton | Union River Book and Toy Co. , Ellsworth, Michael Curtis |
| Riverside Cafe , Ellsworth Leon Harrington | Tangled Web , Southwest Harbor Leslie Jones | University Inn , Orono Tracey Whitten |
| Roy's Bike Shop , Lewiston Mariel Roy | Tesoro Pizzeria & Restaurant , Bangor, R. Agrusa | Valentine Footwear , Bangor Summer Allen |
| Salon Bonifacio , Brewer Guy Ortega | Thai Siam , Bangor Chinda Rustanavibul | Verve , Bangor Tabitha Johnson |
| SALT , Bar Harbor Melissa Walls | The Cellar , Ellsworth Aaron Porter | Verve , Orono Ara Foster |
| Sand Castle , Ellsworth Jess Morehouse | The Courtyard Cafe , Houlton Joyce Transue | Virtual Tech , Houlton Doug Boreland |
| Sandra Qualey, LCPC-C , Houlton Sandra Qualey | The Family Dog , Orono Robert Cutler | Volumes Book Store , Houlton Gerry Berthette |
| SBS Carbon Copy , Waterville Martha Stevenson | The Growing Place , Bangor Sara Rice | Washing Baby Elephants , Ellsworth Wendy Preston-Ward |
| Second to None , Ellsworth Lass King | The Growing Place (2nd location) , Bangor, Serena Cruz | What's the Scoop? Cafe , Bangor Melissa Howard |
| Seven Arts , Ellsworth Rebecca Krupke | The Independent Cafe , Bar Harbor Tim Rich | Wilder's Jewelry , Presque Isle Cathy Beaulieu |
| Shelley's Cafe & Bakery , Houlton Michelle Williams | The Rock & Art Shop , Bangor Annette Dodd | Zen Asian Bistro , Bangor Chinda Rustanavibul |
| Shoestring Thirft Shop , Brewer Cheryl Huskins | The Roost , Orono Jim Coleman | |
| Short Fuse Fireworks, LLC , Old Town, Ronald Farwell | The Ruhlin Corporation , Bangor Chris Ruhlin | |
| Siam Orchid , Bar Harbor Hatsana Hanthan | The Sewall House , Island Falls Donna Davidge | |
| Sign of the Sun , Waterville James Egerton | The Tackle Shop , Portland Dana Eastman | |
| Silver Street Tavern , Waterville Andrea Shorty | Thirsty Whale Tavern , Bar Harbor Heather Surokan | |
| Star City Cafe & Bistro , Presque Isle Dwayne Singletary | Threads to Beads , Presque Isle Sherri Theriault | |
| State Wide Distributers, Inc. , Bangor, Michael Rodrigues | Toad and Co. , Freeport Ponch Membreno | |
| Super Star Nails , Bangor Jimmy Pham | Uncle Willy's Candy Shoppe , Houlton, Matt Sutton | |



Senator Angus King
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator King,

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Lucas St. Clair, the President of Elliotsville Plantation Inc (EPI). My presumption is either you or your staff have met with him and discussed his vision of creating a national park and recreational area of around 180,000 acres east of Baxter State Park, anchored by about 100,000 acres he owns and would like to donate to the US National Park service. In his presentation, Lucas was both a good speaker and a good listener. He seems to have rebooted this long debated and contentious idea of a national park into a more concise, thoughtful, and pragmatic package.

During the 37 years I have been involved with the forest products industry in Maine, I have always been a strong supporter of private property rights. Landowners should be able to do what they want with their land, so long as they do not negatively affect legitimate public resources. If EPI wants to donate land to the National Park Service, and if they want to accept it, then I think he should be able to do so.

There is a concern often expressed that a new national park in Maine would have a detrimental effect on the forest industry. Wagner manages 1.1 million acres of land in Maine; we depend on strong, vibrant, and dependable mills to buy our wood. It is my opinion, a 180,000 acre national park where wood is no longer harvested, would not have a noticeable impact on the wood using facilities in the region

I believe this area of Maine could use the economic diversity of a national park, and the existence of a new park would not have a deleterious effect on the forest product industry. The devil is always in the details but I think the plan Lucas is putting together is thoughtful and realistic. I support his plan and I hope you too can support the idea of a national park and help it come to pass.

Sincerely,

Tom Colgan
President and CEO



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(207) 941-5670
www.epicsportsofmaine.com

The Honorable Senator Angus King
359 Dirksen Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

February 2, 2015

Dear Senator King:

My name is Brad Ryder. I am writing to you as a business owner in Bangor who supports Elliottsville Plantation, Inc.'s proposal for a 150,000-acre National Park and National Recreation Area east of Baxter State Park. I support this proposal not only for its outstanding conservation benefits, but also because of the positive impact it would have on Maine's economy - including my own business.

Epic Sports, established in 1997, is an outdoor adventure retail shop and an anchor store in downtown Bangor. We are located just an hour and a half south of the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area lands and Bangor would be a natural stop for anyone visiting the park. Epic Sports has all the equipment a visitor would need to enjoy the park lands comfortably and safely. Outdoor enthusiasts on their way to Maine's North Woods already stop by our store, but a National Park and National Recreation Area would put the area on the map and attract more out-of-state and international visitors. This would be good news to me, as well as to any other business owner that would benefit from increased traffic through Bangor.

Bangor's economic vitality is on the rise with our new waterfront attractions, Cross Center Arena, and new lodging facilities. The Bangor International Airport provides easy access for many of our visitors looking for these experiences and more outdoor activities.

Economic studies show that the proposed National Park and National Recreation Area would result in an additional 450 to 1000 jobs in the local economy. I would venture to guess that this does not include jobs that would be created in Bangor, meaning that this number would be larger if it included statewide job creation.

I urge you to also support the proposal and to guide Congress in accepting Elliottsville Plantation, Inc.'s gift. I look forward to recommending to future park visitors who stop by my store how best to enjoy the area - I've been in person and can't speak highly enough of it. It is an exceptional example of Maine's beautiful North Woods.

Sincerely,

Brad Ryder
Owner,
Epic Sports
Downtown Bangor



May 20, 2014

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RE: Letter of Support for Katahdin Woods & Waters National Park and
National Recreation Area

To the Honorable Members of Maine's Congressional Delegation:

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Board of Directors of Katahdin Friends, Inc. (KFI) which recently voted to support the Conceptual Framework for Legislation to establish the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park and National Recreation Area. KFI is an award-winning non-profit organization headquartered in Millinocket, Maine with offices in Lincoln, Bangor, and Portland which provides customized supports for people with disabilities – primarily people with intellectual and developmental disabilities – to live in homes of their own, work in regular community businesses, and participate in their communities as typical citizens.

I am a lifelong citizen of Millinocket as are six of KFI's nine Board members. KFI's Board is representative of the forest products industry, education, healthcare, law, business and finance, and people with disabilities. This diverse group of people, which includes people who may still be struggling with some of the issues surrounding the establishment of a national park, voted **unanimously** in support of one.

The reasons to establish a national park and recreation area are obvious to many of us who have spent our lifetimes in the Katahdin region. For over 100 years citizens directly and indirectly enjoyed the economic benefits of

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the paper making industry. Those days are gone. A national park and recreation area has the potential to bring significant economic growth to our area, including job creation for people with and without disabilities.

An independent economic evaluation of the plan produced by Headwaters Economics, an independent non-profit research group that assists the public and elected officials in making informed land management and community development decisions, found compelling evidence for the park and recreation area. Most impressive about the report are the statistics about the vitality of communities surrounding similarly situated parks in our country.

The reports found that a new park and recreation area would have a very small impact on the timber and wood products industry, while at the same time creating as many as 1,000 new jobs and helping to improve overall economic performance and grow personal income in a host of professions. There is no reason why a national park and the forest products industry cannot thrive in the same region.

There are two compelling arguments to establish a national park from KFI's standpoint. One is the obvious advantage all citizens, including people with disabilities, would have in obtaining community employment. The second is the physical access a *national* park and recreation area would provide to people with mobility differences, much better suited than nearby Baxter State Park.

We at KFI urge you to strongly consider the 150,000 acre gift of land from Roxanne Quimby as an economic gift to the Katahdin region. The addition of hunting and snowmobiling in the recreation area combined with traditional uses in the national park will no doubt draw many new visitors and residents. And a \$40 million endowment for permanent maintenance of the park and recreation area is a lasting gift to us and the National Park Service.

We ask that you join us in support of the creation of a new national park and national recreation area in the Katahdin region. We ask that you do so with the sense of urgency that the situation demands. Our communities are dying. We believe this project is the resuscitation needed to breathe new life into the Katahdin region. We believe it will benefit all of its citizens, most especially our friends and neighbors with disabilities.

Sincerely,


Gail Fanjoy, CEO