

July 11, 2016

Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: National Monument in the Katahdin Region of Maine

Dear President Obama:

The Katahdin Region of Maine is a truly special place, one worthy of protection and investment.

We are writing to ask that you use your authority to designate a new national monument in Maine on land that would be donated by a private foundation to the American people. A national monument will protect this unique and pristine area, which holds incredible historical, cultural, and ecological significance.

The creation of a new national monument, managed by the National Park Service, would set the stage for the creation of a national park and national recreation area later.

Over the years, the idea of creating new public lands in Maine has gained traction, and today more than 60 percent of Maine voters support the idea. They recognize that such a designation will not only protect an important part of our state, but it will also help our economy by attracting new people and jobs to an area of our state that has been hard-hit by the decline of the forest products industry. The designation could help create hundreds of jobs and serve as an anchor amenity that brings new people to the region.

A North Woods national monument would complement Acadia National Park, drawing tens of thousands of people from Maine's beautiful coastline inland for a new adventure.

The lands in question sit in the shadow of Mount Katahdin, Maine's highest and most important peak. It includes the wild and beautiful East Branch of the Penobscot River. And it is the land that inspired Henry David Thoreau and Teddy Roosevelt, the visionary who set the stage for landscape scale conservation.

A new national monument in Maine will be good for our state, and it will be good for our country, preserving a small piece of the Great North Woods and ensuring that it is accessible for everyone. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Joe Baldacci
Bangor City Councilor

Sean Faircloth
Bangor Mayor, Bangor City Councilor

Josh Plourde
Bangor City Councilor

Mark Scally
East Millinocket Selectman

Gary McLeod
East Millinocket Selectman

Clint Linscott
East Millinocket Selectman

Bruce Jones
Medway Selectman, Chair

Jeff Jandreau
Medway Selectman, Vice Chairman

John Lee
Medway Selectman

Darrell Lyons
Medway Selectman

Louis Pelletier
Millinocket Town Councilor

Peter Baldacci
Penobscot County Commissioner

Justin Alfond
State Senator

Cathy Breen
State Senator

Geoff Gratwick
State Senator

Nate Libby
State Senator

Chris Johnson
State Senator

Rebecca Millett
State Senator

Dave Miramant
State Senator

Roberta Beavers
State Representative

Lydia Blume
State Representative

Christine Burstein
State Representative

Ralph Chapman
State Representative

Justin Chenette
State Representative

Ben Chipman
State Representative

Janice Cooper
State Representative

Michael Devin
State Representative

Richard Farnsworth
State Representative

Ryan Fecteau
State Representative

Aaron Frey
State Representative

Sara Gideon
State Representative

Paul Gilbert
State Representative

Adam Goode
State Representative

Martin Grohman
State Representative

Brian Hubbell
State Representative

Patty Hymanson
State Representative

Erik Jorgensen
State Representative

Chuck Kruger
State Representative

Walter Kumiega
State Representative

Jay McCreight
State Representative

Andrew McLean
State Representative

Gina Melaragno
State Representative

Kimberly Monaghan
State Representative

Matt Moonen
State Representative

Teresa Pierce
State Representative

Diane Russell
State Representative

Deane Rykerson
State Representative

Linda Sanborn
State Representative

Peter Stuckey
State Representative

Denise Tepler
State Representative

Charlotte Warren
State Representative

Joan Welsh
State Representative