

Ryan Zinke, Secretary of the Interior  
Washington, DC

May 3, 2017

Dear Secretary Zinke,

All of the signers of this letter are elected officials in the Katahdin region surrounding the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument that was designated on Aug. 24, 2016.

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.

We understand that there are some who have talked of rescinding the designation of this Monument. We encourage you to reject that idea.

Instead we encourage you to do everything in your power to ensure that this Monument is a success. Our communities will thank you for that.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Schmidt III, Selectmen, Patten, Maine  
Kenneth Perkins, Selectmen, Patten, Maine  
Reginald Porter Sr., Selectmen, Patten, Maine  
Mark Scally, Chair, East Millinocket Board of Selectmen, East Millinocket, Maine  
Bruce Jones, Chair, Medway Board of Selectmen, Medway, Maine  
Dawn York, Chair, Medway School Board, Medway, Maine  
Jeff Jandreau, Vice-Chair, Medway Board of Selectmen, Medway, Maine  
Bruce Cox, Vice Chair, Medway School Board, Medway, Maine  
Jesse Dumais, Town Councilor, Millinocket, Maine  
Harold Gould, Selectman, Sherman, Maine  
Louis Pelletier, Town Councilor, Millinocket, Maine  
Barbara Hartford, Selectwoman, Medway, Maine  
Clint Linscott, Selectman, East Millinocket, Maine  
Cody McEwen, Town Councilor, Millinocket, Maine  
Gary McLeod, Selectman, East Millinocket, Maine

Eugene C. Laporte, Medway School Board, Medway, Maine

Steve Stanley, State Representative for the Katahdin region, Medway, Maine

Michael Carpenter, State Senator for northern part of Katahdin region, Houlton, Maine

James Dill, State Senator for southern part of Katahdin region, Old Town, Maine

Cc:

Sen. Susan Collins

Sen. Angus King

Rep. Chellie Pingree

Rep. Bruce Poliquin

Gov. Paul LePage