

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 25, 2018

Mr. Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Elwell:

We write to express our support for the application submitted by the Town of Rangeley, Maine, to the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Improvement Program (AIP). The town urgently seeks to extend its municipal airport's runway to increase access to lifesaving air transport critical to Rangeley and the surrounding region.

Town officials project that Rangeley, part of the larger Rangeley Lakes Region in rural Franklin County and that boasts numerous outdoor recreation opportunities, will experience significant economic growth over the next two years and have 175,000 seasonal visitors. This increase in visitors will result in a higher need for critical emergency medical services that are difficult to access without utilizing the town's Stephen A. Bean Municipal Airport. For instance, without access to air transport, a person in need of medical care must travel at least 50 minutes by rural roads to the nearest hospital often in inclement weather.

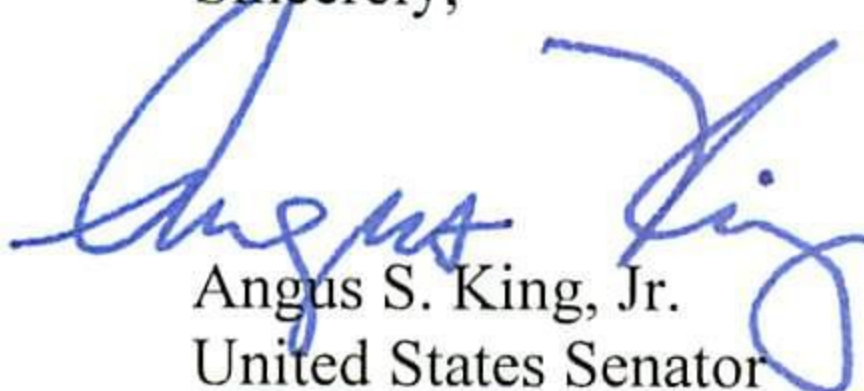
If chosen for AIP funding, the town would be able to begin construction of the airport's runway extension and make several other key enhancements that will support air medical transport in this particularly rural area of Maine. We believe these infrastructure improvements will enable the Town of Rangeley to expand access to vital medical services while also providing long-term benefits for the local economy.

Thank you for your time and consideration of the Town of Rangeley's proposal. We urge your careful review of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress