

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 5, 2018

Mr. P. Daniel Smith
Deputy Director
National Park Service
1949 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Smith:

We write in support of the application submitted by the City of Portland, Maine, to the National Park Service's Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant Program for its Portland Landing Park Development Project. Through its proposal, the city aims to promote and enhance public access to Portland's waterfront and quality outdoor recreation for residents and visitors.

The Portland Landing project focuses on the creation and development of a marine park along the city's waterfront in the heart of downtown. Located along the Portland's eastern waterfront at the mouth of the Casco Bay Harbor, this site has the potential to become a signature park space. According to the city, more than 5,000 residents live within a half mile of the proposed site, and more than 1 million people visit this part of Portland annually. In addition, as downtown commercial development continues to expand, more people are expected to live and work in this area, which means they could benefit from the Portland Landing park project.

If funded, the City of Portland would be able to complete the first phase of park construction by creating a multi-purpose public area and becoming the primary access point to the water and existing Bayside Trail. While the selection of final features will be informed by community input, it is anticipated to include a waterside walking path, play features, seating areas, outdoor lighting, public art, interpretive signage, landscaping, shore stabilization, and hardscaping. In addition, the city is targeting active marine space as a key goal of the project. Concept designs highlight community boating, public fishing, water taxi, and charter vessels as essential elements to recreation opportunities along the waterfront and in nearby neighborhoods.

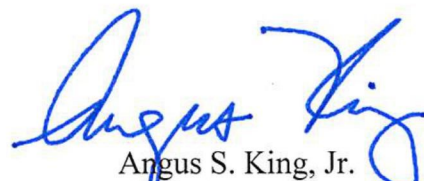
Portland's parks, trails, and outdoor spaces play a critical role in providing access to the water bodies that make it an attractive place to live, work, and visit. The proposed project would augment revitalization efforts to improve this area of the city by providing new recreational opportunities for underserved residents and creating vital connections to the Portland waterfront from the downtown district, benefitting our constituents in Portland and beyond.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the City of Portland. We urge your careful consideration of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator