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July 17, 2020

Ms. Nicole R. Nason
Administrator
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason:

I write in support of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway's application to the Federal Highway Administration for an All-American Road designation through the National Scenic Byway program. If designated as an All-America Road, the Bold Coast Scenic Byway will attract even more travelers to the experience, people, places, and culture of Downeast Maine, facilitating recreation and education and supporting communities along Maine's coast.

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway is located at the easternmost edge of the United States along the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy. The Byway's western gateway is in Milbridge on US Route 1 (57 miles east of Bangor). The eastern gateway is in Calais at the International Avenue border crossing on US Route 1/State Route 9 (95 miles east of Bangor). A spur route at the intersection of US Route 1 and State Route 190 East in Perry connects to Eastport.

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway features diverse recreational opportunities within breathtaking natural settings. Byway travelers can swim, fish, bike, hike, camp, paddle, and cruise through sheer coastal cliffs, inland lakes, and unspoiled rivers supporting wild Atlantic salmon. The designation of this connector to historic districts and public conservation lands alike would build upon an already robust tourism industry in Maine and extend its reach to areas off the beaten path.

In coordination with DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism (DART), the Schoodic National Scenic Byway coordination committee, the Maine Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Maine Office of Tourism coordination committee, the Bold Coast Scenic Byway application seeks to expand accessibility to many sites important to America's history, including Samuel de Champlain's first settlement, the first naval battle of the American Revolution, and rivers that once transported Native Americans, European explorers, and the "King's pines." An All-American Road designation would enable a greater opportunity for youth and families to engage with the recreational and historic locations of Downeast Maine.

Thank you for your time on behalf of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway application. I hope you see the value and potential for its impact to the recreational economy in Downeast Maine. I urge your careful consideration of this application, subject to 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