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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 Katahdin Woods & Water Scenic Byway's (KWWSB) application to the Federal Highway Administration for a National Scenic Byway designation. If designated, the KWWSB will be able to increase the visibility and awareness of this beautiful region in Maine and help support the area's rural economy by attracting travelers and tourists to nearby communities, attractions, and small businesses.

Northern Maine and the KWWSB region provide incredible scenic and recreational opportunities during every season that intrigue travelers from around the state, the nation, and the world. Often, the final destination pales in comparison to the discoveries available along the way - if only tourists knew of the possibilities. This designation builds upon a robust tourism industry in Maine, recognizing that local natural attractions just off the main highways have a lot to offer and so much to gain by bringing people to these sites.

Working in partnership with the Maine Department of Transportation, Katahdin Tourism Partnership, and the Upper Valley Economic Corporation, the KWWSB application underscores the unique natural assets and the incredible potential of the region's recreational economy. Its proposal focuses on key landmarks in the region, including Baxter State Park, Katahdin Area Trails, Penobscot River Trails, the East and West Branch of the Penobscot River, and the Katahdin Woods and Water National Monument. Each of these sites has significant recreational opportunities that would be greatly enhanced by a national designation.

Thank you for your time on behalf of the KWWSB application. I urge your careful consideration of KWWSB's 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