

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 26, 2016

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director, National Park Service
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis:

We are writing on behalf of the State of Maine and the Maine RSU 39 School System to request that the National Park Service (NPS) accept a transfer of land in Caribou, Maine, that would allow for the construction of a critically necessary new elementary school building. A portion of the project will require the use of land in Teague Park, which benefitted from grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 1975 and 1990.

The Maine Department of Education has placed the City of Caribou on the construction list to receive a new elementary school building for grades Pre-K-8. The school project would replace three older outdated school buildings and involve seven parcels of property throughout the community. RSU 39's project would create a new school and school grounds, demolish three buildings, provide two new community parks, and make available additional low-income housing.

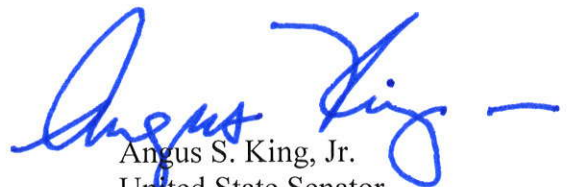
The sites that previously benefitted from NPS funds are Caribou parcels 23-00198 and 23-00644, known locally as Teague Park. The City of Caribou and RSU 39 have developed a plan to improve the activities and services offered there. RSU 39 has requested that NPS accept a transfer of land in Caribou for the parcels in question to allow for the construction of the school. If NPS approves this transfer, community residents would continue to be able to enjoy recreational opportunities through two conveniently located, new parks in Caribou.

While the complexity and requirements of this project are clear, the community must go through a referendum and the building season in Northern Maine is extremely short. The City of Caribou and RSU 39 Board are very concerned about the deadlines they must meet and the possibility that the NPS decision could take nine months or longer. We therefore ask that the State of Maine and the Maine RSU 39 School System's request for land transfer be given expeditious review and consideration, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you notify Phil Bosse with Senator Collins at (207) 493-7873 and Sharon Campbell with Senator King at (207) 764-5124 when a final decision is made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United State Senator