

From: Micah Chambers
To: randal_bowman@ios.doi.gov; downey_magallanes@ios.doi.gov
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Secretary Zinke from Senator Collins
Date: Wednesday, May 31, 2017 6:01:51 PM
Attachments: [attachedFile.html](#)
[2017-05-31 Ltr to Sec Zinke re Katahdin Monument.pdf](#)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Kurtz, Olivia (Aging)" <Olivia_Kurtz@aging.senate.gov>
Date: May 31, 2017 at 2:57:17 PM AKDT
To: Micah Chambers <micah_chambers@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: "Woodcock, Carol (Collins)" <Carol_Woodcock@collins.senate.gov>
Subject: Letter to Secretary Zinke from Senator Collins

Hi, Micah-

Hope you are well.? Attached please find a letter to Secretary Zinke from Senator Collins regarding the monument review.? Please let me know if you have trouble opening the attachment.

Thank you, Olivia

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202-224-3364

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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

May 31, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

Thank you for the invitation to share my views on Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters Monument, following its inclusion as the only monument to be reviewed for lacking "adequate public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders" under President Trump's April 26, 2017, Executive Order 13792.

I have been clear that I opposed the manner in which President Obama unilaterally designated the Katahdin monument last summer, although I recognize that he had the legal authority to do so. Nevertheless, this executive action bypassed Congress and circumvented discussions of alternatives that might have had broader support. For this reason, I support examining reforms to the Antiquities Act so that state governments have a greater say over future monument designations.

While differences remain about the monument designation, I believe that proponents and opponents alike recognize that significant public engagement took place over a number of years regarding a monument or national park in the region. Now that the Katahdin monument has been designated, I believe that we should move forward and work together to make the Katahdin monument meet the varied needs of the region. Elected officials in the region, including those who opposed the monument prior to its designation, those who supported it, and those who were undecided, have come together to express their hope that we work to make the Katahdin monument a success.

I have heard from many constituents in the area that they do not want to reopen what has been a very bitter and divisive debate, especially as some signs of economic development are beginning to take hold in what has been a very economically depressed area. For the first time in years, business owners are planning for the future and seeking to grow their businesses. Several sporting camp owners, recreational guides, and food establishments report that they are beginning to see benefits from increased tourism. A couple who own a sporting goods camp in the area recently told me that their business increased considerably following the monument designation.

On a related note, as you are aware, Senator Angus King and I have also led an effort to bring a federal economic development assessment team to Maine to work with a diverse group of local stakeholders—the forest products industry, landowners, recreational users, and, most important,

the Mainers who live in the Katahdin region—to devise a plan to help our forest products industry and chart a better economic future for this area.

Helping communities in the Katahdin region strengthen the local economy by expanding business opportunities and creating jobs remains a top priority of mine. Thank you for your consideration of my letter and of the comments you receive from residents of the Katahdin region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Susan M. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator