

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 13, 2010

Mr. Andrew McGilvray, Executive Secretary
Foreign Trade Zone Board
U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N. W. FCB 4100 W
Washington, D. C. 20230

Subject: Foreign Trade Zone Grantee Application

Dear Mr. McGilvray:

We are writing to express our support for the application submitted by the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority (MRRA) to establish a general purpose Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ) on 393 acres at the recently named "Brunswick Landing" at Naval Air Station Brunswick (NASB). It is our understanding that MRRA enjoys broad regional and statewide support of its application.

The Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority is a municipal corporation created by the State of Maine and recognized by the United States Department of Defense. MRRA is responsible for implementing the reuse master plans for NASB and the Topsham Annex which are closing as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

The closure of NASB represents one of the largest single employer relocations or closings in the history of the state. The Maine State Planning Office conducted an assessment of the impact of the closure and revised the state gross product projection in 2015 downward by \$390 million, cutting the projected growth rate from two percent to approximately one percent. The Maine State Planning Office also revised the state's population growth downward by 7,400 as a result of the base closure, and reduced projected personal income by \$370 million.

The Foreign Trade Zone application is part of a larger project to facilitate successful and rapid redevelopment of the 1.7 million square feet of industrial, commercial and professional office space at NASB which will close in 2011. The FTZ designation will enhance the competitiveness of the Midcoast region and the State of Maine in attracting, growing and creating new businesses that are engaged in international trade. This will help MRRA to market and attract businesses in its targeted market clusters of aviation manufacturing and remanufacturing, as well as composite technologies and alternative energy product manufacturing companies that often purchase goods and raw materials from outside of the United States. The FTZ designation will be an integral part of MRRA's efforts to enhance economic vitality and job growth in the region, and will help to mitigate the very serious economic challenges the closure of the base presents. It is with this in mind that we lend our support to this proposal.

We urge your favorable consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please keep us informed of the status of the review process.

Sincerely,


OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator


SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator


MICHAEL H. MICHAUD
Member of Congress


CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress