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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-131 The Capitol

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-146 A The Capitol

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairman
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Senate Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Mikulski, and Shelby,

I am writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for programs and projects that are important to Maine. A description of these requests in alphabetical order by organization follows.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family members has a pecuniary interest in the congressionally directed spending items that we have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 or Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

Acadia Partners for Science and Learning. Base to Campus Conversion - Winter Harbor, Maine - $2,900,000.

There is broad agreement that the United States has a critical need to provide stronger math and science education to more students. In a report titled "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" the National Academies recommend that the nation should: 1) Strengthen the skills of 250,000 teachers through training and education programs at summer institutes, in master's programs, and in Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) training programs, and 2) Enlarge the pipeline of students who are prepared to enter college and graduate with a degree in science, engineering, or mathematics by increasing the number of students who pass AP and IB science and mathematics courses. Acadia Partners is putting in place programs to provide such training to teachers and students across New England, using the unique resources of Acadia National Park as a teaching laboratory.

AUBURN
TWO GREAT FALLS PLAZA
SUITE 7B
AUBURN, ME 04210
(207) 786-2451

AUGUSTA
40 WESTERN AVENUE, SUITE 408C
AUGUSTA, ME 04330
(207) 622-8292

BANGOR
ONE CUMBERLAND PLACE, SUITE 306
BANGOR, ME 04401
(207) 945-0432

BIDDEFORD
227 MAIN STREET
BIDDEFORD, ME 04005
(207) 282-4144

PORTLAND
3 CANAL PLAZA, SUITE 601
PORTLAND, ME 04101
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MAINE RELAY SERVICE
TDD 1-955-3323

PRESQUE ISLE
169 ACADEMY STREET, SUITE 3
PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769
(207) 764-5124

IN MAINE CALL TOLL-FREE 1-800-432-1599

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Acadia Partners for Science and Learning is a non-profit corporation that is transforming, in cooperation with the National Park Service, a former military base into the Schoodic Education and Research Center, a public facility for natural science research and education. Additional support is needed to solidify Acadia Partner's initial success and to provide the basic programmatic functions originally envisioned by Congress in directing the transfer. Funds will be used in two ways: (a) to rehabilitate key educational facilities to meet code, fire safety, accessibility, and minimum environmental standards; and (b) to further develop and implement Acadia Partner's unique K-16 and teacher training programs that directly link ongoing natural science research with rigorous, field based education

Good Will Home Association (dba Good Will-Hinckley), Independent Living Program for Homeless and Runaway Youth, Hinckley, Maine -- $517,690.

Youth homelessness is an increasing problem in Maine that requires a comprehensive solution to engage and assist at-risk homeless, runaway and other street youth. Good Will-Hinckley (GWH) provides an array of targeted Transitional Living Program (TLP) services in a manner that is consistent with the purposes of the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act. It was last funded to provide these services with an award residual to the Clinton Administration for $972,570 for 5 years, beginning in 2002 ($194,514/yr.). The organization has carried this program out of its own operating budget since 2007.

All residents of the proposed Independent Living Program for Homeless and Runaway Youth must either be involved in educational programs (programs which are aimed towards obtaining a GED or a high school diploma) or employed part- or full-time. As a result of Good Will-Hinckley's membership and active participation in the national Alliance for Children and Families' "New Voices at the Civic Table" all GWH students participate in civic engagement activities related to service learning.

GWH has been able to broaden the geographic focus for this program from a local model in central Maine to one that can operate on a much broader basis. Through acquisition of the highly respected Outreach/Identification/Education and Referral program (Bridge to Independence) GWH can now reach homeless and runaway youth in Southern Penobscot County (Bangor), Kennebec County (Waterville and Augusta), and Northeastern York County (Biddeford).

Gulf of Maine Lobster Foundation, Continuation of Protected Species Bycatch Reduction Maine Groundline Exchange Program, Kennebunk, Maine -- $1,000,000.

Continuation of the Groundline Exchange Program's objective is to reduce the entanglement risk to right, humpback, and other large whales by removing floating groundline from the lobster fishery and substituting "whale-safe" (sinking) groundline. Lobstermen using floating groundline would be provided financial assistance to purchase "whale-safe" groundline in exchange for their floating line. The program will be a continuation of the current Maine Groundline Exchange Program in which $1,557,000

will be distributed to lobstermen along the coast of Maine. Based on surveys to individual lobstermen, there are approximately 5,201,875 pounds of floating groundlines still in the water creating a need of $8,900,000 to continue with the financial assistance to remove the remaining floating line and replace it with "whale-safe" groundline. All rope collected with then be recycled through a facility and will not be put back into the water or placed in a landfill.

The Maine lobster industry is comprised of over 7,000 "owner-operated" businesses. These fishermen fuel the economy of Maine's coastal communities. As small businessmen, lobstermen are not able to absorb unexpected costs in a timely manner. The GOMLF, a 501(c) 3 non-profit research organization founded by members of the lobster industry, will coordinate a Maine groundline exchange program providing financial assistance to lobstermen by enabling them to purchase "whale-safe" rope in exchange for their existing groundline.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Herring Acoustic Surveys to Support the Maine Lobster Industry, Portland, Maine -- $1,900,000.

Atlantic herring constitute 70 to 80 percent of the bait purchased by the Maine lobster industry, with coastal waters being the primary source of bait. Reductions in the allowable harvest of Atlantic herring over the past several years, in the absence of 1) scientific evidence demonstrating a need for such reductions, and 2) direct estimates of the Atlantic herring resource, have shifted bait supply/demand dynamics and created economic hardship on the industry. These management decisions underscore the lobster industry's dependency on and susceptibility to the fate of Atlantic herring. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute requests funds to purchase critically-needed acoustic equipment and conduct surveys to assess Atlantic herring resources in coastal Maine waters.

The cutting-edge acoustic instrumentation will enable remote classification of herring, minimizing the need for traditional sampling methods (e.g., trawls, gill nets) that are inoperable in Maine's coastal waters due to the density and extent of lobster traps. Such direct and quantitative estimates of Atlantic herring will provide the critical resource assessments necessary for informed management decisions that balance conservation needs for sustaining Atlantic herring populations and economic needs of the Maine lobster industry.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Bulkhead to Support Research & Technology Jobs Growth, Portland, Maine -- $2,400,000.

GMRI is seeking federal funds to improve public access, parking, and vessel access to its 5.5 acre marine research and education site on Portland's working waterfront. Funds will be used to renovate a dilapidated pier; provide a walking surface to allow the public to walk out onto the central harbor waterfront; make berthing facilities available to U.S. Coast Guard, fishing, and research vessels; and prepare site for construction of approximately 210,000 sq. ft. of marine research and education facilities. The total cost of this project is $4.3 million. To date, GMRI has secured $1,100,000 in state funds,

$700,000 in USDOE funds, and approximately $100,000 in charitable funds for the project, leaving a balance of $2,400,000 to fund the project.

This project will support three federal responsibilities: fishery ecosystem research to support management of New England fisheries, science education of middle school students to support advances in science literacy, and jobs growth through the growth of marine research, development, and manufacturing of marine technologies. Public funding will insure the assembly of a unique site to promote marine research, marine education, and marine technology economic development through public/private partnerships.

Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Ecosystem Science to Rebuild Groundfish Stocks, Portland, Maine -- $1,000,000.

Many of the 19 groundfish stocks in the Gulf of Maine region are considered in poor condition. However, all overfished stocks are now, or will soon be, subject to rebuilding plans. The groundfish resources contributed $12 million to Maine's total fishing revenues in 2006, and have the potential to contribute substantially more when stocks are rebuilt. Numerous fisheries management approaches have been discussed and a number of these have been tried, to rebuild groundfish stocks and reduce the impacts of fishing on the environment. The GMRI requests funds to evaluate the effectiveness of these various approaches and to analyze the relative trade-offs between them. The results of such an evaluation will assist resource managers in making the hard decisions that will be required to further rebuild and sustain the region's groundfish stocks that Maine's fishermen depend upon.

LifeFlight Foundation, Saving More Lives While Maintaining Jobs by Improving the Aviation Communications Infrastructure of Maine's Emergency Medical Helicopter Service, Union, Maine -- $341,000.

LifeFlight of Maine operates Maine's only emergency medical helicopters from bases in Bangor and Lewiston. Each year, LifeFlight transports over 1,400 critically ill or injured patients from accident scenes and community hospitals to Maine's three regional trauma centers, to Boston, or beyond. This service is central to Maine's emergency preparedness. Every hospital, EMS, and public safety agency in the State relies directly or indirectly on LifeFlight. Upgrading LifeFlight's communications system is critically important to assure safety and interoperability among agencies. Particularly in the summer months, LifeFlight's radios are essentially inoperable due to the static and bleed-over – which makes communications with the dispatch center and ground crews nearly impossible.

LifeFlight's current system is a mix of technologies, with components that date back to the 1980's and 90's. As other private communication systems, hospitals, EMS, and public safety agencies upgrade their communications to 12.5 mhz narrow band frequencies, LifeFlight is increasingly experiencing loss of communications. This project would maintain 71 jobs by upgrading the present antiquated radio system with a fully P25

compatible digital system. The entire project would cost $466,000. The request is for $341,000 (73%) to be matched by more than $125,000 (27%) in other public and private funding. The work would be completed within 6-12 months of the funds being available.

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Maine Groundfish Industry Emergency Economic Assistance, Augusta, Maine -- $10,760,000.

Maine is in danger of losing its groundfishing industry. The following programs will help prevent this devastating loss to Maine, and will ensure a healthy and diverse fishery in years to come.

- Rebate for Portland Fish Exchange (PFE) handling fees – $2.1 million. To encourage vessels to land at the PFE by refunding handling fees. Current fees are $0.14/pound and DMR plans to return their volume to 15 million pounds per year.
- Rebate of Ice purchase price to all Maine GF vessels – $570,000. Maine vessel owners spend between $6,000 and $35,000 per year. Maine's two remaining ice suppliers sold approximately $570,000 worth of ice to groundfish vessels in 2006.
- Rebate for trucking fish to the PFE from elsewhere in the State – $75,000. DMR estimates 10% of the 15 million pounds will be trucked to the PFE. The standard rate for trucking fish is $.05/pound for a total cost of $75,000.
- Revolving Low Interest Loan Fund - $2.5 million – DMR will work with the Finance Authority of Maine to establish a low interest loan program to Maine groundfish vessels that land in Maine and related shoreside businesses. Loans could be used for upgrades in safety gear, vessel maintenance, equipment maintenance and replacement, and to refinance existing debt.
- Sales Tax Rebate on Diesel Fuel for active groundfish vessels - $400,000. Maine Revenue Services estimates the total cost of refunding sales tax to groundfish vessels would be $400,000.
- Permit bank for ME vessels – $5,000,000 – DMR will purchase permits for use by vessels that homeport and land their catch in Maine for use on recovered stocks. Allocation of new permits would favor small boats and community based efforts. Should the Northeast multispecies allocation method change from DAS to a new currency, the permit bank would change accordingly, but would maintain a requirement that vessels reside and/or land their catch in Maine

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Maine Groundfish Research, Augusta, Maine - $215,000.

Port-sampling program:

The Department of Marine Resources conducts many port sampling programs for commercial fisheries in the state. These programs are important because they collect biological, catch and effort information. Biological samples include; lengths, weights, sex, maturity, otoliths (ear bones for aging), and tissue for genetics work. All of these data are critical to understand the exploited population. A port sampling program for groundfish in Maine is critical to the management of this species complex. Funding would cover travel, sampling tools and general field supplies.

Longline hook survey:
The Department of Marine Resources has undertaken a longline hook survey in the near-shore Gulf of Maine. This survey targets groundfish species that are normally not caught by trawl gear due to the habitat they live in (rocky un-towable bottom), or their ability to out swim a slow moving trawl. Some of the species included in this category are Atlantic halibut, cusk, and wolfish. All three of these fish are listed as species of concern by the federal government, largely due to the lack of basic abundance and distribution data. The longline survey was very successful in its first year collecting valuable data that was immediately used by the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in sock assessments. However, the funding source is not long-term and this survey will likely come to an end after only two years of data collection.

Groundfish Ecologist:
DMR and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to create a jointly funded Demersal Fisheries position at GMRI to focus on groundfish issues of importance to Maine fishermen. This jointly funded collaborative research position will provide the opportunity for fishermen to participate and contribute to research while at the same time enhancing the fishing industry's ability to survive and flourish in the face of declining fishing opportunities.

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Herring Research, Augusta, Maine -- $875,000.

With an estimated U.S. complex-wide biomass of 1.8 million metric tons, herring provide a significant forage base for other commercially and recreationally important fish species as well as marine mammals, and birds. Atlantic herring is the second largest commercial fishery on the east coast in terms of volume; landings have recently been in excess of 222 million pounds with an estimated value of $15.5 million. The fishery also supports a domestic value added industry (canned sardines and frozen whole fish) worth approximately $50 million, is a critically important bait source used in the Atlantic lobster fishery estimated at over $300 million, and supports a traditional social network of communities in coastal Maine.

Maine DMR maintains primary responsibility for monitoring the east coast Atlantic herring fishery and since 1960 has processed all of the biological samples collected from the Atlantic herring fishery. In addition to processing biological samples, responsibilities include compiling catch data, monitoring area quotas, entering, and compiling data from dealer reports, and providing aging data for stock assessments. This appropriation would provide continued support for DMR's current East Coast herring sampling program and the bycatch survey of the herring fishery initiated as a pilot study in 2003. Additionally, sampling would also be conducted in the Atlantic mackerel and Atlantic menhaden fisheries.

Adequate bycatch data is a high priority research need for effective management of any stock. Since 2003, Maine has conducted portside bycatch studies at processing plants from Cape May, NJ, through Eastport, ME, targeting directed Herring and Mackerel

landings. This request would allow coverage to expand from about 10% to about 40% of landings, a more statistically-significant level. Monitoring of the bycatch provides vital data used in assessments for both Herring and Mackerel, as well as answering important question related to bycatch of river herring and groundfish. This projected has proven more cost effective than at-sea observing, yet compliments the data collected by federal observers.

Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Lamoine Laboratory Expansion and Red Tide Monitoring Program, Augusta, Maine -- $1,900,000.

Expansion of DMR's Lamoine laboratory will enable the DMR to better serve the needs of the shellfish industry in eastern Maine. There are over 1,414 shellfish harvesters in Eastern Maine whose landed value of shellfish in 2007 was worth approximately $11 million at the docks. Soft-shell clams alone were valued at over $4.8 million in 2007, and landed by over 746 licensed harvesters. In addition to licensed clam harvesters, there were 42 licensed ocean quahog fishermen, 582 scallop draggers, 44 licensed mussel draggers, and approximately 28 wholesale shellfish dealers in eastern Maine. The value of the shellfish industry in eastern Maine is approximately $33 million, using a conservative 3:1 multiplier. This is a tremendously valuable industry for an economically-challenged area of the state.

Construction of a new laboratory will provide one-time construction jobs in a part of the state in critical need of economic development. It will make space available for DMR to meet public health needs and more effectively address fishery issues in eastern Maine. This will also create more opportunity for collaboration with the fishing industry and other community organizations. The economic impact of the project will be to more efficiently operate DMR's shellfish management program in the eastern coastal waters of Maine and help to sustain the Downeast fishing industry.

Funding will also be used to continue the expanded Red Tide sampling program that was initiated with federal disaster funds received following the devastating 2005 Red Tide season. DMR was able to establish a fine-scale Red Tide along the coast that has resulted in more clam flats staying open during Red Tide events. The reduced size of shellfish closures resulting from this monitoring program in recent years has greatly reduced the economic losses to Maine's shellfish industry. This program can only be maintained by continued federal funding.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Lobster Research, Augusta, Maine – $472,000.

American lobster is Maine's most valuable fishery; and after nearly 15 years of sustained growth in the population and landings, the last several years have been characterized by erratic and/or delayed summer molts and a decrease in landings. The preliminary 2007 landings are 56,054,797 million pounds valued at $248,511,579. This is a 23% drop in pounds and a 16% drop in value from 2006. Based on state surveys, 2007 landings were the lowest recorded since 1997, a 40% decline since the peak in 2003. The Department is

requesting new funding from the Department of Commerce to improve management of an economic resource that supports the direct livelihoods of fishermen, contributes to the nations food supply, and benefits numerous secondary industries beyond the Gulf of Maine. Maine gathers biological data on the lobster resource to (1) judge population health so management can adjust to stock conditions and (2) prepare management plans for Maine waters that meet interstate planning (Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) compliance requirements.

The sea sampling program began in 1985 at the request of industry, managers, and scientists to gain insight into the discarded portion of the lobster population. The program is now the largest at-sea sampling program for lobster in the northeast. Sea sampling is DMR's only opportunity to monitor V-notching (an integral component of lobster management) in the Maine lobster fishery. The port sampling program began in 1967, and is the region's first comprehensive survey of the lobster fishery and associated resource. Time-series of catch rates and biological data from both programs complement each other and have been used in numerous investigations if width/length relationships, fecundity, size-at-maturity, sex ratio, geographic variation, growth, V-notch composition and selectivity.

Data from these programs are critical to DMR's understanding of the resource and contribute directly to the ASMFC American lobster stock assessment. The ventless trap survey provides a critical regional index of juvenile lobster distribution and abundance. Small-mesh traps designed to catch juvenile lobsters are deployed by local lobstermen. Collaborating with local fishermen and deploying traps allows samples to be collected in complex bottom and in high trap density areas inaccessible to trawls. The lobster settlement index tracks the annual pattern of newly settled lobsters and provides a 5-7 year forecast of future juvenile and adult lobster populations. The survey is a collaborative effort between DMR scientific staff, commercial divers, and academic institutions. Patterns of settlement are the first of an integral series of programs that provide a comprehensive picture of the distribution and abundance of lobsters along the coast of Maine and a predictive look into future harvest.

Maine Department of Marine Resources, Maine/New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey, Augusta, Maine – $400,000.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) trawl survey is not able to survey the shallower inshore waters of the Gulf of Maine because of the extremely rough topography and abundance of lobster gear. In 2000, the Maine Department of Marine Resources and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department initiated a trawl survey of the inshore waters to provide data on fishery resources from over 10,000 square kilometers of important spawning and nursery grounds that had previously lacked survey information. These inshore waters were formerly productive fishing grounds for many species of groundfish, and are currently the most valuable fishing habitat for the American lobster resource in the U.S. Filling this information gap is a high priority for both state and federal resource managers, as well as fishermen.

The Maine/New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey provides stock assessment information on over 50 species of state-, interstate-, and federally-managed marine resources in the Gulf of Maine that would otherwise be lacking. Surveys are conducted each spring and fall from the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border to Canada out to 100 fathoms. In its eighth year, the Maine-New Hampshire Inshore Trawl Survey now provides data on population abundance, distribution, recruitment, and mortality of more than 30 recreationally and commercially valuable species, several of which are not covered by the offshore federal survey. Survey data are the basis for inshore assessments of 9 species including cod and haddock for the Groundfish Assessment Review Meeting that is presently underway. Survey data have already altered the outcome of assessments for lobster, monkfish, herring, and American shad; management of winter flounder and northern shrimp and effected design of surveys on sea scallops and Jonah crabs. Survey data have also helped delineate essential fish habitat, evaluate fishery closures, climate change, and ecosystem based management.

Maine Department of Marine Resources - Bureau of Sea Run Fisheries and Habitat, Penobscot River Restoration Project, Augusta, Maine - $5,000,000.

Funding in FY2010 will allow the Penobscot Trust to finalize engineering designs for removal, allow the removal at Great Works Dam to occur and beginning work at Howland bypass. Over the next years the Project will remove three significant barriers to fish migration, reconnecting upriver habitat to Penobscot Bay and the Gulf of Maine. To accomplish the goals set forth in this historic agreement, the Trust must secure approximately $55 million in overall funding from both private and public sources. Having raised $25 million for dam acquisition, the Trust and its partners are now focused on obtaining the additional funds needed for dam removal, bypass construction and other implementation costs. Funding for the implementation phase is expected to include both public and private funding.

The Penobscot River project is an innovative, national model for river restoration. It achieves for the first time in this country a balance between hydropower production in a major river system and meaningful and significant restored sea-run fisheries. The project will allow the federal resource agencies to achieve their mission of fisheries restoration in a tangible, cost effective manner. Funding is requested for dam removal through USDA's Conservation Operations' Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program.

The Penobscot River is poised to transition to a sustainable balance between native sea-run fisheries and hydropower through the Penobscot River Restoration Project. It represents the first specific plan to address the root of the problem for declining migratory fish populations – high mortality associated with multiple up- and downstream fish passages. By working to remove dams, maintain hydropower generation and involve local communities, the project has become a national model for large-scale (eco-system based) river restoration. The Project aims to restore the full assemblage of 11 native diadromous fish species to the Penobscot River, including Atlantic salmon. The Penobscot Project offers our best opportunity to restore a significant run of Atlantic salmon to a large US river. For over a century, a diversity of federal projects (National

Marine Fisheries, USF&WS, and Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission) has strived to help manage and recover North Atlantic ground fish stocks.

Maine Scallop Advisory Council, Maine Scallop Community Enhancement and Research Project, Southwest Harbor, Maine -- $980,000.

This project will fund the research necessary to establish an effective enhancement program to bring about the recovery of Maine's scallop fishery, and will provide start-up funds for such a program. Enhancement has restored fisheries around the world. They have the support and evidence to make it work. What are required are start-up funds. Maine's lobster industry has recently seen a dramatic reduction in profitability due to increased operating costs, including bait and fuel, costs incurred as a result of federally mandated gear changes, and a drastic reduction in boat price at the time of year when a significant portion of the product is landed. An additional source of fishing income, particularly in the winter months, could keep many individuals financially viable. It would also help mitigate the dangerous situation of having entire communities dependent on one resource.

Scallop's life history, fast growth, and high value render them particularly suitable to enhancement. This initial funding will bring to life a program that will eventually be self-supporting and potentially generate millions of dollars. The fishery will be sustainable, community based, and environmentally friendly. It will bring an economic boost to the most fisheries-dependent region in New England, an area that suffers from high unemployment. When adding the direct economic impact to the reduction in state and federal aid brought about by those who are assisted by this project, the rewards and applicability become evident.

Consortium for Wildlife Bycatch Reduction, New England Aquarium, Boston, Massachusetts – $2,000,000.

In 2005, representatives of major fishing industries and marine scientists from Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and North Carolina came together to form the Consortium for Wildlife Bycatch Reduction. The Consortium is administered through the New England Aquarium. The Consortium helps evaluate and mitigate conflicts between fishing activities and marine mammals, turtles, seabirds, and habitats, and promote sustainable fishing practices. The program supports the development and implementation of advanced fishing technology and practices, and fosters collaborations between industry, scientists, managers, engineers, conservationists, and the public to provide the latest information on "best" fishing practices.

Penobscot County Regional Communications Center, Penobscot County Mobile Data System,Bangor, Maine - $800,000.

Penobscot Regional Communications Center is a Dispatch / Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) facility with enhanced 9-1-1 capability, operated on a 24-hour basis, assigned the responsibility of receiving 9-1-1 calls and, as appropriate, directly

dispatching emergency services or, through transfer routing or relay routing, passing 9-1-1 calls to public or private safety agencies for the citizens of Penobscot County. Penobscot Regional Communications Center is one of the largest PSAP's in Maine with eight Answering Position Units efficiently responding to more than 79,600 emergency calls annually. However, emerging new technologies such as VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol), ACN (Automatic Crash Notification), and telematics such as OnStar, present new challenges regarding the routing and location of emergency callers. Solutions for these new technologies are being explored on a national level and will be implemented in Maine as soon as they are deemed reliable and commercially available.

Penobscot Regional Communications Center is in critical need of solutions for inter-operability and communications for the public safety, critical infrastructure, and commercial market. Penobscot County is primarily rural with very little flat area. Connectivity between mountain tops and the Communication Center is often interrupted. Microwave connection would solve this problem but is very expensive. Specifically, the federal funding the Communications Center is seeking would be used to purchase a networking system which would perform as a microwave network and improve their communications immensely at a significant cost-savings.

City of Portland, Maine, Regional Public Safety Complex, Portland, Maine -- $4,000,000.

The industrial nature of the Public Works facility is no longer compatible with its neighbors. When first established, the location of Portland's Public Works facility made sense: it was not in a residential area, yet it was close enough to deliver services efficiently. The Department is located in the Bayside area which the subject of a major redevelopment effort. Relocating the Public Works operations from the Bayside neighborhood will help the residents, who are largely low- and moderate-income, by clearing the way for new housing and business development. This project will make it possible to consolidate certain public safety functions and equipment which will allow for greater efficiencies. Further, the city will consolidate major components of the City's public safety services (fire, homeland security, haz-mat, electrical) into the facility and will establish a regional Fire/Rescue training facility for First Responders

Somerset County, Communications Equipment Upgrade, Skowhegan, Maine -- $1,090,500.

Law enforcement, including police, county sheriffs, state troopers, fire department personnel, and others cannot communicate with one another or ambulances, HAZMAT, and EMA officials by cell phone or radio in certain areas throughout the "Route 201 Corridor" of Somerset County, Maine. The Corridor cuts a wide swath running the length of Somerset County, and much of it constitutes a communications "dead zone," which cannot support cell phone, radio, or other communications without the construction of at least six new Communication Towers. This project supports law enforcement by improving facilities and equipment. In rural areas, such as the Route 201 Corridor, it is often difficult for local police and fire departments to communicate. As a

result of this project, law enforcement officials from Somerset County, the Maine State Police, as well as U.S. Border Patrol Agents will be able to communicate effectively in the Route 201 Corridor.

The merging of emergency officials in Somerset County has brought the total number of emergency response agencies being dispatched by one facility to twenty-six (26) fire departments; seventeen (17) rescue and transporting ambulances; five (5) full-time law enforcement agencies; and the Somerset County Emergency Management Agency. The lack of interoperability/communications capacity among these officials is a serious public safety concern and must be remedied by the erection of communication towers to facilitate communications.

University of Maine, Understanding Abrupt Climate Change, Orono, Maine – $1,000,000.

Abrupt climate change is known to occur at magnitudes and rates that are of great significance to humans and ecosystems. Through this initiative, UMaine researchers will address relevant issues related to the range, magnitude, forcing, and predictability of abrupt climate change events. The University of Maine is working to establish a new NOAA initiative, which will focus on the recovery, analysis and interpretation of paleoclimate archives (glacial deposits and ice cores) that describe the role of the atmosphere in abrupt climate change.

University of Maine, Forestry and Agricultural By-Products for Aquaculture, Orono, Maine -- $620,000.

A growing concern for the sustainability and growth of aquaculture in Maine and around the world is the availability of high quality fish meal to feed the commercially desirable species. Around 40% of aquaculture production relies on commercial formulated feeds and the industry is expected to require up to 70% of total world fishmeal supplies by 2010. The cost of fishmeal has risen rapidly in the last 5 years and the US currently imports around 60,000 metric tons of fishmeal annually. There is an urgent need for additional sources of high quality protein to supplement dwindling supplies of ocean captured fish meal. In Maine alone, 7,000 metric tons of fish meal is required every year to support the current aquaculture industry. Growth of the industry will require a concomitant growth in the availability of high quality feed.

Research shows that mycelium biomass derived from fungi similar to bread moulds (Rhizopus oryzae) have a protein content remarkably similar to that of fish meal (up to 50%). Biomass from this fungus can be blended with conventional fishmeal to produce a high quality feed for fish species such as trout and salmon. This project will demonstrate the feasibility of using waste starch from potatoes and wood sugar resources available in Maine to produce a mycelial biomass supplement for aquaculture fish feed. Funds would be used for support of laboratory research into optimal species of fungus and growth conditions; characterization of the feed quality of the mycelium biomass; construction

and equipping a 600 square foot pilot facility to produce biomass for continuous feed trials.

University of Maine, Northern Border University Research Consortium, Orono, Maine - $3,000,000.

Canada and the United States form the largest bilateral trading relationship in the world and the northern border is the gateway through which massive flows of people and products must pass. Critical economic competitiveness and security issues are directly affected by the border. Despite its importance, understanding of the northern border in the post-9/11 world is fragmented. No comprehensive research capability exists to examine and assess how the border is performing and whether border management policies have been successful in facilitating economic prosperity while enhancing security.

To create a border-wide research capability, six universities have established a Northern Border University Research Consortium (NBURC). An academic, non-partisan consortium, the NBURC will produce reports, briefings, and other policy statements for government officials engaged in border-related issues. The consortium universities comprise Western Washington University, the University of Montana, the University of North Dakota, Michigan State University, the University of Buffalo, and the University of Maine. Each university has recognized expertise in cross-border research; Western Washington University and the University of Maine each have federally-funded National Resource Centers on Canada. The NBURC will also collaborate with researchers at other American and Canadian institutions.

An advisory board representing governmental and private-sector stakeholders will advise the NBURC's agenda, and consortium research proposals will be vetted through scholarly peer review.

National Request

NOAA, Protected Species Research and Management Program for Atlantic Salmon – Increase.

Atlantic salmon populations have declined drastically in the last two hundred years, and many challenges remain in the rebuilding of this endangered population. NOAA's Protected Species Research and Management Program for Atlantic salmon greatly assists in management and recovery efforts. I support the President's request for increased funding for this program, particularly in light of the Administration's pending decision that may result in the determination that distinct population segments of Atlantic salmon in three additional Maine rivers warrant a listing as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Providing the Protected Species Program with increased funding for Atlantic salmon will allow NOAA to continue to provide technical assistance to improve restoration project design, ensure environmental compliance, and advance restoration techniques. This program is essential to reverse the downward population

trend of Maine's Atlantic salmon population by protecting against habitat degradation, addressing predatory and other threats to the species, and promoting increased public awareness without decimating the industries that sustain much of Maine's economy.

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator