

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
MAINE

154 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 224-5344

Web Site: <http://snowe.senate.gov>
DEPUTY WHIP

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

March 30, 2010

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

OCEANS, ATMOSPHERE, FISHERIES AND
COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

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 Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable George V. Voinovich
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
125 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

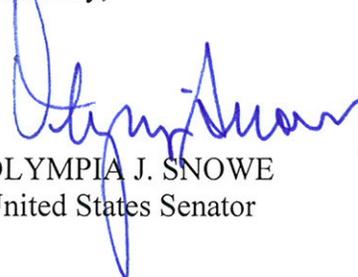
Dear Senators Inouye, Cochran, Byrd, and Voinovich,

I am writing to request your support for funding in the Fiscal Year 2011 (FY2011) Homeland Security 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.

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

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
(207) 874-0883
MAINE RELAY SERVICE
TDD 1-955-3323

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

City of Lewiston, Maine, Androscoggin County WMD/Hazmat Center Renovation Project, Lewiston, Maine – \$412,000.

The Lewiston Police Department is the host agency for the COBRA (Chemical Ordinance Biological Radiation Agents) Team, Androscoggin County's Regional WMD/HAZMAT team that was created in 2004. This 24-person team is made up of members of the Lewiston, Auburn, and Lisbon Police Departments, the Androscoggin County Sheriff's Office, and the Auburn Fire Department. Some of the team's equipment is currently housed in the former Lewiston Fire Department Sub-station on Lincoln Street. The building, while structurally sound, is in need of renovation and expansion to properly house the Team's hazmat vehicles, trailers and equipment which have a cumulative value of over \$500,000. This \$412,000 request will allow for the needed expansion and renovation of this building (*which would include a small amount of asbestos removal*) and will provide much needed space for the Team's equipment while centralizing operations and equipment security in one location. Currently, critical hazmat support equipment and trailers are stored in other locations. Fully centralizing equipment and operations in one location will also allow the team to deploy more quickly to a hazardous materials release incident, which is critical in helping mitigate the release event.

Northern Oxford Regional Ambulance Service, NORAS Regional Ambulance Facility/River Valley Public Safety Facility, Mexico, Maine – \$500,000.

Construction of a new ambulance/public safety facility. The ambulance service is currently a regional program covering over 500 square miles of geography having eleven towns as owners in a quasi-municipal fashion. The local fire services are looking to regionalize and currently have several different delivery models on the table. This facility would be designed and located to immediately address the needs of the ambulance service's viability, efficiency, and effectiveness, but would also be designed and located in a manner that would support continued and expanded regional efforts in both the fire and police arenas. This phase would include a 4 bay metal structure type apparatus area approximately 86 feet by 80 feet in length and width with an attached stick built single story ranch 86 feet by 60 feet to house the administrative offices, crew quarters, and training room.

This project would provide the needed stability of the delivery of Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services in a rural setting. This facility would also be designed as a potential Northern Oxford backup communications facility as well as a possible County Emergency Operations Center in the event of a disaster in the Northern tier of the County. The current facility has numerous fire code violations and is not in compliance with Maine Municipal Association's requirements; a new facility would address all of these issues.

They have not previously received federal funding; however, they are diligently working on several funding mechanisms. Including requesting that a portion to be funded through Federal Stimulus money; working with the local USDA for grant funds and low interest loans; portions through current operational budgets; portions through subsidy (taxation); and lastly portions will be delivered through “in kind” sources.

Somerset County, Emergency Operations Center (Phase II), Skowhegan, Maine – \$1,000,000.

Somerset County, located directly on the U.S. border with Canada, is in dire need of a new Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In 2003, the Maine Emergency Management Agency documented inadequacies in the County’s emergency operations. As of 2005, the County was home to 51,667 people inhabiting nearly 4,000 square miles. In 2005, three emergency centers in the county were absorbed into the one, limited physical structure that served as the main EOC in Somerset County. This caused 12 additional emergency response agencies to be combined and housed in the one, cramped EOC, which the State’s assessment had already deemed deficient. Further, in 2008 and 2009, communities surrounding Somerset County (required to consolidate by the State) requested that they be provided 911 services by the same EOC. Today, 20 communities with a total population of over 90,000 (in addition to the 52,000 residents of Somerset County) contract services through this same, single, inadequate EOC.

Phase I of this project received \$500,000 in FY2010 federal appropriations funding, which has not yet been distributed. Current funding comes from county taxes, but no future county funding is anticipated to be available to finance this project and Somerset County has not received substantial state government aid.

University of Maine at Augusta, Northern Border Transnational Threat Analysis Center (N-TTAC), Augusta, Maine – \$600,000.

This project seeks to establish a distributed regional center to research and analyze open source information on transnational criminal and extremist organizations threatening the Northern Border with Canada. This will create a capability where none currently exists, and where the private sector has been unable to establish a solution, to exploit electronic data, social media, and official data on transnational criminal and extremist organizations, like outlaw motorcycle gangs, religious extremists, criminal gangs, hate/neo-Nazi organizations, and radicalized Diaspora communities in Canada. This project leverages an established infrastructure and methodology built with more than \$5 million from the Departments of Defense,

Homeland Security, and Justice to track transnational terrorist organizations worldwide.

A multi-lingual, multi-cultural research and exploitation capability will be created at the University of Maine at Augusta to track these transnational threats in Canada. The University of New Hampshire will establish, train, and direct these activities, as well as configure the technical infrastructure to support the Maine and Connecticut state fusion centers and relevant DHS elements at Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. When fully implemented, this project will provide valuable data and analysis to state organizations and DHS elements responsible for interdicting transnational threats along the northern border. This project is expected to be transitioned to the DHS for longer-term funding within two years of establishing the center.