



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
TASKING PROFILE

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To (Recipient): Salazar, Ken

From (Author): Quimby, Roxanne

769 Congress St.
Portland, ME 04101

Subject Text: Sends letter of support and other materials regarding the proposal for the creation of a new national park in the North Maine Woods.

Req. Surnames:

Mail Carrier:

Mail Track #:

Cross Ref:

Copies To: SIO-OES

Status Tracking:

Correspondence Specialist and Phone: SIO-OES Tim Feeney/202-208-6701

Closed

Comments:

Signed:



November 5, 2011

Ken Salazar, Secretary
United States Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Secretary Salazar:

My heartfelt wish as the owner of 70,000 acres of pristine and remarkable wilderness in Maine's celebrated North Woods is to gift this resource to the National Park Service in honor of the 100 year anniversary of the National Park System in the year 2016.

Maine currently possesses substantial open spaces, but the future status and the public accessibility of these vulnerable resources are not guaranteed. My intention is to insure public access and enjoyment of this legendary portion of Maine and preserve an experience that has inspired Henry David Thoreau and millions of subsequent visitors.

Please accept the enclosed materials that express the hopes of 3,731 individuals and organizations who share a vision and commitment to the creation of a Maine Woods National Park.

You will find 406 letters that express the hopes of Maine residents from every portion of the state, as well as the petition signatures from 3,325 supporters who urge the National Park Service to explore the feasibility of a resource that we believe is key to Maine's future.

Letters of support come from local citizens' committees, school boards, chambers of commerce, business owners, guides, and leaders of preservation groups. Supporters include the leader of the Penobscot Nation, elected officials, conservationists, educators, small business owners, Maine guides, and members of snowmobile clubs.

This growing alliance of thousands of individuals demonstrates broad support from neighboring communities, including participation by 205 residents of Millinocket, 137 of Medway, and 49 of East Millinocket—the three communities in closest proximity to the proposed National Park.

Materials for your consideration also include a proposal for the National Park, with an estimated annual budget and a plan for an endowment. This proposal, with maps and photographs, addresses in a preliminary way the critical questions of a Special Resource Study.

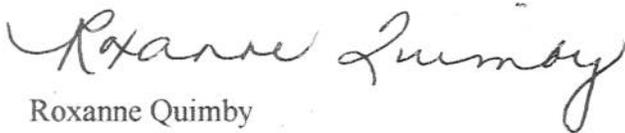
Rarely has an opportunity arisen that would so effectively strengthen the economic vitality of a region while simultaneously preserving its natural beauty.

A recent poll by Critical Insights established that across Maine supporters for a Maine Woods National Park comprised 60% of the population, compared to only 30% not in favor and 10% undecided.

We believe that establishing the facts through a Special Resource Study is now essential and holds great promise for Maine's future.

We therefore urge you to employ the expertise and resources of the National Park Service to explore the potential of this campaign to manage Maine's beautiful landscape in a way that will build its economic future.

Sincerely,



Roxanne Quimby

enclosures

Proposal

Exhibit One: 89 letters of support from local leaders, business people, and residents

Exhibit Two: 39 letters from Maine leaders and elected officials

Exhibit Three: 278 letters from Maine residents throughout the state

Exhibit Four: 839 local and Maine petition signatures

Exhibit Five: 1,343 statewide petition signatures

Exhibit Six: 1,070 online petition supporters

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A3815 (2605)

DEC 19 2011

Ms. Roxanne Quimby
769 Congress Street
Portland, Maine 04101

Dear Ms. Quimby:

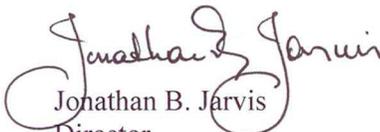
Thank you for your letter of November 5, 2011, to Secretary Salazar transmitting documents in support of the creation of a new national park unit in North Maine Woods. I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary. Your proposed generosity for the benefit of the American people is a tradition that really began in Maine with the establishment of Acadia National Park through the land and philanthropic donations by the Rockefeller family and others in the early 20th Century. Today, Acadia is a beloved national park and an important domestic and international destination. In these tough economic times, our national parks are proud to contribute over \$12 billion to the nation's economy, much of it in rural areas that need it the most.

I greatly appreciate the continuous effort that you have made to reach out to a broad audience of local and state residents regarding your proposal. These engagements have served to answer many of the outstanding questions regarding what a national park designation can mean for the state and for local communities.

We appreciate the information you have provided. As you know, there remain mixed opinions and perceptions regarding your proposal. To determine whether the resources you have offered meet the criteria for becoming a unit of the National Park System, Congress must pass legislation authorizing a Special Resource Study. Thus far, Congress has not authorized a study to begin.

We will continue to monitor the situation as we approach our 100th anniversary in 2016. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director

Enclosure