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July 17, 2020

Ms. Nicole R. Nason  
Administrator  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason:

I write in support of the application submitted by the St. John Valley (SJV) Cultural Byway for a National Scenic Byway (NSB) designation. If designated, the SJV Cultural Byway will be able to share its vibrant blend of French heritage with a greater community and help the rural economy in northeastern Maine by attracting visitors to the region.

Located in the northeastern-most point of Maine alongside the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec, the SJV Cultural Byway aims to link Maine's first cultural byway and the state's first scenic byway. Travelers will be captivated as they drive through the winding roads at any time of year, as they meet descendants of first settlers, hear Acadian music, see dark skies and nature's haunting beauty, taste the fusion of old and new French recipes, and touch centuries-old hand-hewn logs and early tools that shaped the land. Travelers will be enveloped by vast skies, big fields, and French Canadian-Acadian heritage.

NSB designation would support the SJV Cultural Byway's priorities to develop a comprehensive communications strategy, identify creative ways for visitors to experience the byway, enhance and revitalize communities and the visual landscape, and preserve cultural and historic assets. In close collaboration with the Maine Acadian Heritage Council, Association Française de la Vallée-St-Jean, Acadian Archives, Aroostook County Tourism, and individual museums, cultural groups, hotels, restaurants, and outdoor recreation groups, the SJV Cultural Byway organization will continue to steward its cultural and scenic resources.

Thank you for your time on behalf of the St. John Valley Cultural Byway application. I urge your careful consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify [REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator