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United States Senate  
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COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
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ON INTELLIGENCE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

September 26, 2024

The Honorable Chris Saunders  
Federal Co-Chairman  
Northern Border Regional Commission  
James Cleveland Federal Building, Ste 1501  
53 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Mr. Rich Grogan  
Executive Director  
Northern Border Regional Commission  
James Cleveland Federal Building, Ste 501  
53 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Saunders and Mr. Grogan:

I write in support of the City of Presque Isle's application for funding through the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) Catalyst Program. The City seeks support for renovations to the Forum, which serves as an event space and emergency center for communities in Central Aroostook County. If awarded, funds will be used to upgrade the Forum's 2,500 square foot commercial kitchen, improving the efficiency and functionality of the space.

In addition to serving as an emergency shelter for 22 communities and one federally recognized Native American Tribe, the Forum is uniquely positioned to support the regional economy, due not only to its location, but also its size. Events held there include trade shows, concerts, conventions, a circus, and sporting events, and it functions as an ice arena during the winter months. The facility is open year-round and is available for rent for both ice and non-ice events, helping to generate tourism that is vital to surrounding businesses. This upgrade would facilitate the hiring of additional staff members and would help generate significant revenue for the facility.

The proposed upgrades to the Forum's kitchen will help modernize the facility and ensure its continued vitality for years to come. With this in mind, thank you for your consideration of this application, consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please notify Deidre Grant in my Bangor office at (207) 945-0417 when a decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator