

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. President:

We write in full support of the Governor of Maine's request that you declare a Major Disaster for York County in the State of Maine as a result of a severe coastal storm that caused flooding, rain, and high winds in early March of this year.

The storm struck off the coast of Maine on March 2, 2018, and the National Weather Service issued several major storm warnings between March 2 and 8 due to the severe flooding caused by high tides and extremely strong offshore winds. During this period, repetitive high tides caused damage to sea walls and other coastal infrastructure, and offshore winds reached upwards of 60 miles per hour and created swells up to 30 feet. As a result, many coastal communities flooded, compelling the evacuation of residences. There were a total of 72 incidents requiring roads to be closed and traffic diverted from flooded and dangerous coastline breaking waves. A Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment for Public Assistance requested by Maine on March 16 validated nearly \$2.04 million in public infrastructure damages across York County, which exceeds the county per capita threshold of \$3.68.

Both prior to and during the storm, the performance of state and local emergency management personnel, as well as public works crews responding to damaged infrastructure, was exemplary. First responder crews worked unrelentingly during each tidal cycle to protect lives and property. Unfortunately, response to this storm has greatly strained the resources of the local and state government, and the Governor has determined that the effects of the storm exceed the state's currently available capabilities.

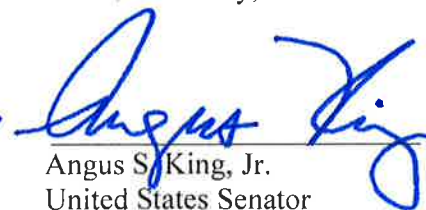
In addition to extensive damage to property and infrastructure, we are also extremely concerned about the potential negative impact the storm could have on the local economy, particularly the vital tourism industry, if the damages are not repaired in a timely manner.

We urge you to give expeditious consideration and approval of the Governor's request for a Major Disaster declaration for York County. The State of Maine is greatly in need of this disaster assistance.

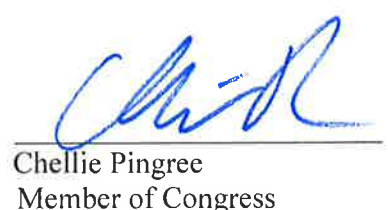
Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress