

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

April 2, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write in full support of Maine Governor Janet Mills' request for a Major Disaster declaration for the entire State of Maine as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency. We ask that you fully grant the Governor's requests for federal Public Assistance and for four supplemental assistance programs under the Individual Assistance Program.

In the State of Maine to date, 376 individuals have tested positive for COVID-19, 68 people have been hospitalized, and seven deaths have resulted. As we have seen nationally, the number of confirmed cases continues to rise as the disease rapidly spreads. COVID-19 is now confirmed in 14 of Maine's 16 counties, and community transmission has been confirmed in both Cumberland and York Counties. It is likely that additional counties may see community transmission in the days and weeks ahead.

As the oldest state by median age, Maine residents are particularly vulnerable to the disease, increasing strain on an already overburdened health care system. Additionally, our state's economy, of which the hospitality and tourism sectors are major drivers, has been badly battered by the widespread closures that have been implemented to try to control the spread of the virus. We've seen extensive school closures, cancellations of events, and many businesses have been forced to lay-off their workforce or take other dire measures.

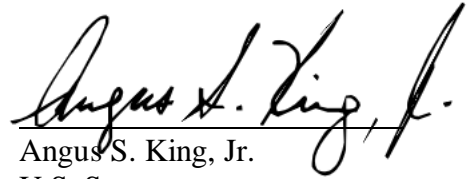
The State has acted decisively to try to mitigate the spread of the virus, but the response to this pandemic has strained state and local resources, and the Governor has determined that the effects of the pandemic exceed the state's currently available capabilities.

We urge you to expeditiously approve the Governor's request for a major disaster declaration for the entire State of Maine. The people of Maine are in great need of this federal assistance, and we thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



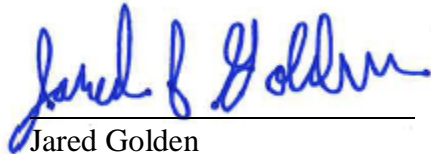
Susan M. Collins  
U.S. Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
U.S. Senator



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Jared Golden  
Member of Congress