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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

November 9, 2011

Mr. Jeff Trandahl
Executive Director
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 15th Street, Northwest, Suite 1100
Washington, District of Columbia 20005

RE: Damariscotta Mills "Lower Middle" Fish Ladder Restoration Project

Dear Mr. Trandahl:

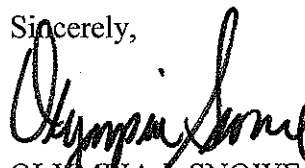
I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Nobleboro Historical Society to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation requesting a \$92,505 grant to fund the continuation of a restoration project of a stone fish ladder that provides passage for fish between the salt-water Damariscotta River and the fresh-water Damariscotta Lake in the Gulf of Maine.

The towns of Nobleboro and Newcastle, Maine have maintained the fish ladder since its original construction in 1808 and have undertaken several joint ventures to repair the deteriorating ladder over the course of its lifetime so as to ensure the continued migration and spawning of the river herring. Beginning in 2007, the towns, through the Nobleboro Historical Society, initiated a full-scale restoration of the fish ladder with the aim of providing a better passageway for the river herring that would ultimately contribute to the growth of the depleted herring stock – specifically alewives – which are critical to the region.

The requested grant would significantly bolster the Nobleboro Historical Society's efforts to completely restore the "Upper and Lower Middle Section" of the fish ladder. Previously restored sections of the ladder have proven successful in increasing the number of river herring passing through the fish ladder. A continued growth in that population would considerably benefit the Gulf of Maine's marine ecosystem, commercial fisheries, tourism, and environmental education.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I ask that you keep me apprised of the status of the review process and inform Patrick Woodcock of my staff at (202) 224-5344 when a final determination has been made.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

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