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July 21, 2012

Mrs. Julie Anderson
Town Manager
P.O. Box 308
10 Tenney Hill Rd
Monson, ME 04464

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your kind invitation to add my voice as you celebrate the Town of Monson's designation as an official Appalachian Trail Community.

This is an exciting event for Monson, as it not only recognizes the town's stewardship and commitment to protecting the Appalachian Trail, but also provides a basis for sustainable economic development. For years, the people of Monson and the surrounding communities have served as loyal friends and neighbors to the Trail and all those who pass through on it. The Appalachian Trail Community Program will engage community members and visitors in the conservation of the Trail and the wildlife found along it.

Achieving a balance between preserving Maine's rural heritage and promoting economic development can be a difficult task, yet becoming an Appalachian Trail Community allows Monson to do both. Being recognized as a Trail Community will draw the attention needed to ensure the conservation of Maine's rural heritage and quality of life, as well as the incentives for sustainable economic development that will allow Monson to thrive.

I send my warmest congratulations, and wish you all a happy Summerfest.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator