

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 25, 2002

The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to ask your help in ensuring the successful inauguration and completion of the East Coast Greenway, the nation's first long-distance urban trail, and one of 16 National Millennium Trails.

The East Coast Greenway is a 2600 mile multi-use trail serving walkers, bicyclists, equestrians, the physically challenged and other non-motorized users. Considered the "urban equivalent of the Appalachian Trail," this trail traverses urban areas from Portland, Maine to Miami, Florida, passing through sites that showcase our nation's industrial, intellectual and cultural past. When completed this pathway for people will contribute to advancing a number of important goals: increasing transportation options, improving air quality, reducing roadway congestion, encouraging ecotourism and adventure travel, local economic development, improving the health of our citizens via recreation and exercise, and helping to connect people and communities.

Volunteers, and local agencies are currently hard at work on all parts of the route, from Key West, Florida to Maine's Canadian border at Calais. More than 20% of the East Coast Greenway is currently in use and another 40% is in various stages of planning, design or construction. This community-based initiative has received critical support from federal programs administered by the U.S. Departments of Interior and Transportation, the Centers for Disease Control, the EPA and branches of the Armed Services. States along the trail have utilized millions in federal transportation program funding for the design & construction of local trail segments. However, additional help is needed to ensure that the vision of completing this trail by 2010 is fulfilled.

We ask for your support by first, accepting the forthcoming invitation to officially launch the East Coast Greenway at the Inaugural event in June 2003 in Washington, D.C., and second, directing the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Transportation, Defense, Health & Human Services, EPA and the new Homeland Security to work together and make the East Coast Greenway a priority for discretionary funding and technical assistance programs administered by each Agency.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing from you.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

Susan Collins

Paul Sarbanes

Jack Reed

Tom Lantos

Allen Smith

Robert G. Menendez

John Edwards

Porter J. Goss

Jim J. Walsh

Chris Dodd

Ed Kennedy

J. Robert

Chuck Sch

Max Cleland

Joe Miller

Bill Nelson

Justin

Rick Santorum

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Thomson

Bob Casey

John Warner

Olympia Snowe