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ON AGING

August 18, 2008

Penobscot River Restoration Trust
P.O. Box 5695
Augusta, ME 04332

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to celebrate with you today an important milestone for the Penobscot River Restoration Project. Through the hard work and determination of the many partners dedicated to the restoration of the Penobscot, we are achieving remarkable progress toward completing the most significant river restoration project ever in the eastern United States. The Penobscot River Restoration Trust and the PPL Corporation are moving ahead with the purchase of the Howland, Veazie, and Great Works dams, which will officially complete the first phase of the project.

When the Penobscot River Restoration Project is complete, over 1,000 miles of habitat for Atlantic salmon and other fish species will be restored. Interior Secretary Kempthorne highlighted the project as a successful example of cooperative conservation during his September 20, 2006, visit to Brewer, Maine. This project is an extraordinary partnership between many entities, including: the State of Maine, local communities, the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, PPL Corporation, the Penobscot Indian Nation, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, American Rivers, Maine Audubon, the Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited and many others.

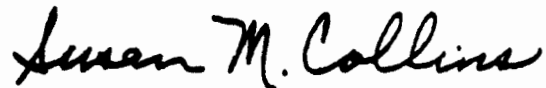
The merits of this project are demonstrated by the fact that it has attracted both federal and private support. The federal government has already contributed nearly \$15 million in federal funding since fiscal year 2005 to help restore the natural flow of Maine's largest watershed, and a private fundraising campaign recently reached its impressive goal of raising \$10 million. I greatly appreciate the strong support Admiral Lautenbacher has shown to further the Penobscot River Restoration Project. During a recent conversation with Admiral Lautenbacher, he assured me of NOAA's ongoing commitment to this project.

Restoring Maine's largest watershed will require removing two dams and bypassing a third by constructing a fish passageway. What is remarkable is that the loss of hydropower generation will be offset by energy increases at other PPL-owned dams. PPL will be able to maintain almost all of its existing power generation by increasing production at six other dams - including re-powering the Orono Dam, adding additional height at several impoundments, and recycling turbines to increase generation. The project will allow hydro-electric power generation on Maine's rivers to continue to provide clean, affordable energy, while significantly increasing spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon.

In addition to enhancing Atlantic salmon recovery efforts, the Penobscot River Restoration Project will have far-ranging benefits for the entire Gulf of Maine and will help support endangered species, migratory birds, and a diversity of riverine and estuarine wetlands. The project will also help revive the social, cultural, and economic traditions of New England's second largest river.

I congratulate the Penobscot River Restoration Trust for its outstanding effort to secure private funding for this critical project. Their dedication and commitment, sustained over years of effort, have helped bring the project closer to completion. I look forward to continuing our work together to complete this exciting project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan M. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "M".

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator