

Longfellow's Restaurant  
247 Main Street, PO Box 3  
Kingfield, Maine 04947  
207-265-4394

Date: 03/11/23

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 7, 2023

Dear Senator Collins,

I am writing this letter in support of the application of the Workforce Housing Coalition Western Maine Mountains (the Coalition) for a \$1.5 Million Congressionally Directed Spending Grant to aid in the construction of workforce housing in our region.

Longfellow's Restaurant opened in May 1980 serving lunch and dinner seven days a week year-round. After closing because of the pandemic, many employees chose not to return to work. We are now open only 5 days a week instead of 7 because of the lack of staffing.

Longfellow's currently has 21 employees:

- 8 full-time
- 2 high school students
- 2 college students
- 7 part-time
- 2 full-time (working owners)

Ten of the current employees own their own home. Five live with parents or relatives, 3 have rentals, and 1 resides on college campus. Two are working spouses.

It has been, and still is, difficult to hire qualified cooks and full-time front of the house employees because of the lack of housing. Applications were received but affordable housing couldn't be acquired. Being located near a major ski and golf community, Air B&Bs and local rental agencies are asking monthly rental fees that were unheard of 3 to 4 years ago.

Your support for this application is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John Goldfrank