

Message from US Senator Susan Collins

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ON ASPIRE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

January 2007

Town of Lamoine
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605

Dear Friends,

As you gather for your Annual Town Meeting, I welcome this opportunity to share some of the work that has made me proud to represent the people of Lamoine and all of Maine in the United States Senate.

As Chairman of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, I am pleased to report that Congress made real progress in 2006 to protect our nation, including major legislation that I coauthored to improve the security of America's seaports. I also led a bipartisan effort to pass chemical security legislation that, for the first time, requires security measures at more than 3,400 chemical facilities nationwide.

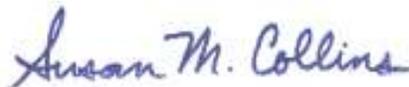
Following the flawed response to Hurricane Katrina, the Homeland Security Committee conducted the most extensive investigation in its history, and I coauthored legislation that reorganizes and reunites the federal government's preparedness and response capabilities to meet the challenges of all aspects of emergency management.

Congress last year passed many pieces of legislation I authored to improve health care, assist those in need, protect our environment, support our economy and our workers, and strengthen our nation's defenses. The Older Americans Act includes my amendment to establish transportation services for America's seniors. I led the successful fight to reject proposed cuts in Medicare home health and hospice payments, and to prevent prescription drug plans from removing a drug from their formulary during the plan year. I have secured increased funding for diabetes and Alzheimer's research, and for support services for patients and their families.

In 2006, I helped secure a record level of funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Congress renewed the tax deduction I authored for teachers who spend their own money on classroom supplies and my renewable energy tax credit. The landmark Postal Reform legislation I coauthored will ensure affordable rates and preserve universal service. Major Defense bills include my provisions to help secure the future of Bath Iron Works and the jobs of our skilled shipbuilders.

I remain committed to doing all that I can to address your community's concerns on the federal level. If I may be of assistance to you in any way, I encourage you to contact my Bangor office at 945-0417.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator