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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,  
RANKING MEMBER  
ARMED SERVICES  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON AGING

March 11, 2010

Ms. Kellie Perrault Mueller  
Main Street  
Saco, ME 04072

Dear Ms. Perrault Mueller:

Thank you for contacting me again regarding Camp Ellis. I appreciate your taking the time to do so.

At the direction of Congress, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an agency within the Department of Defense, is responsible for water resources projects. Congress authorizes new Army Corps of Engineers water resources projects and studies through the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

I supported the 2007 WRDA legislation, and a particular provision in the bill that authorizes the Army Corps to address a problem the agency created at Camp Ellis. A jetty built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers more than a century ago, and expanded in the 1950s, has altered the patterns of the water currents and sand deposition, causing destructive erosion to Camp Ellis. The 1998 shoreline was 400 feet from where the shoreline stood in 1908. As a result, 36 houses have washed into the sea in the last 100 years. The jetty at Camp Ellis continues to threaten homes and property and could eventually change the entire geography of the coastline. The sea has advanced such that a large storm could potentially wash out the peninsula and turn Camp Ellis into an island. WRDA authorized \$27 million for Camp Ellis. While these funds have been authorized, they still must be appropriated by Congress, an effort on which I am working with the Maine delegation.

The people of Maine have always been faithful stewards of our waters and shorelines because we understand their tremendous value to our economy and to our way of life. The Camp Ellis jetty was built by the federal government at a time when the erosional impacts of shoreline structures were largely unknown. This jetty has served the navigational needs of our nation well over its more than 100 years of existence. I believe it is now time for the federal government to make good on its obligation to help those people whose property has been damaged as a result of this structure. I will continue my advocacy for WRDA as the Committee debates the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations bills.

Again, thank you for contacting me. I appreciate having the benefit of your views.

Sincerely,



Susan Collins  
United States Senator