Dear Friends,

It is an honor to represent Maine in the United States Senate. I am grateful for the trust the people of our state have placed in me and welcome this opportunity to share some key accomplishments from this past year.

As Chairman of the Senate Aging Committee, I worked to help ensure the well-being of our seniors. The SeniorSafe Act I authored became law last year and is empowering banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions to better protect seniors from financial fraud.

Following extensive committee investigations of prescription drug pricing, additional legislation I crafted became law, ending the egregious practice of pharmacy “gag clauses” that prevented pharmacists from informing patients on how to pay the lowest possible price.

This year, I was also successful in securing an extra $425 million for Alzheimer’s research—the largest funding increase ever—bringing the total to $2.34 billion. Additionally, the bipartisan BOLD Act I authored will create public health infrastructure to combat Alzheimer’s by promoting education, early diagnosis, and improved care management.

More than 40 million Americans—including 178,000 Mainers—are caregivers for parents, spouses, children, and other loved ones with disabilities or illnesses, such as Alzheimer’s. The RAISE Family Caregivers Act I authored was signed into law last year, giving caregivers more resources and training to better balance the full-time job of caregiving. Another law I wrote will help grandparents who are raising grandchildren, largely due to the opioid addiction crisis.

In addition to helping seniors, a major accomplishment over the past year is the increased federal investment in biomedical research that is leading to progress in the fight against numerous devastating diseases. Congress has boosted funding for the National Institutes of Health by $7 billion in just the last three years, bringing total funding to more than $39 billion.

One of my highest priorities as Chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee is to improve our nation’s crumbling infrastructure and ensure that Maine’s needs are addressed. Since the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grants program, formerly known as TIGER, was established in 2009, I have secured $160 million for vital transportation projects throughout Maine.

Congress also delivered a Farm Bill last year, which includes many important provisions that will help the agriculture industry in Maine and across the country. Specifically, I secured provisions that will strengthen support for young farmers, improve local farm-to-market efforts, and increase funding for organic research.

Congress took decisive action to address the opioid addiction epidemic. In addition to appropriating $8.5 billion in federal funding last year, Congress enacted the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, a comprehensive package that embraces the multipronged approach I have long advocated for this epidemic: prevention, treatment, recovery, and enforcement to stop drug trafficking.

Maine plays a key role in ensuring a strong national defense. In 2018, Congress provided funding for five ships to be built at Bath Iron Works, which will help to keep our nation safe and provide our skilled shipbuilders a steady job. I also secured more than $162 million for infrastructure projects at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to support their important work to overhaul Navy submarines.

A Maine value that always guides me is our unsurpassed work ethic. In December 2018, I cast my 6,834th consecutive vote, continuing my record of never missing a roll-call vote since my Senate service began in 1997.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve Maine in the United States Senate. If ever I can be of assistance to you, please contact one of my state offices or visit my website at www.collins.senate.gov. May 2019 be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our state.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Collins
United States Senator
Dear Citizens of Maine:

For the past eight years as your Governor, my priority has been to make Maine prosperous. I am proud to say that my administration has had some success, but there is more that can be done.

Mainers experienced strong, record-setting economic growth in 2018, setting so many new records: a record-high number of employers; a record-high number of private-sector jobs; record-high revenues for the state; record-low unemployment; and the fastest net-earnings growth in New England. Our poverty rate declined to the lowest since 2005 with the fewest number of children in poverty in 17 years. Maine’s future is the brightest it has been in decades: there’s more new businesses, more money in your paycheck, and better opportunities for our children. And that’s what it’s all about: the future of our state.

We have brought stability to state finances and implemented pro-business, pro-growth policies across state government. The incoming administration is taking on a state government that is vastly improved—both structurally and financially—from the one I inherited. Therefore, I have suggested to the new administration that now is the time to cut taxes by an additional 20 percent.

My administration lowered taxes by 20 percent for more than half-a-million Mainers. Cutting taxes for our families has proven to be an excellent policy decision. Despite this cut, we are seeing higher revenue in almost every tax category—sales and use tax, individual income tax, and corporate income tax. We must always remember that the revenue we receive in taxes is due to the hard work of Maine’s people. Democrats stated they want to use surplus money to fully fund revenue sharing at 5 percent, rather than the 2 percent the towns have received for the past 6 years. However, there is no guarantee your local government will cut your property taxes by one penny—never mind dollar-for-dollar—if revenue sharing is increased.

The people of Maine and the municipal balance sheets would be better off if the state cut income taxes and allowed municipalities to collect property taxes or service fees from non-profits to supplement the local property taxes. Everyone should contribute to the operation of local community governments.

I encourage you to pay attention to what happens in your municipality and in Augusta. So many good people have worked much too hard to achieve our current prosperity. We must avoid letting politicians drive Maine’s finances and its economy back into the ground. I promise you that I will be watching.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor
January 3, 2019

Dear Friends,

As I travel Maine, I hear from people who live in every corner of our state. I hear about their achievements, their successes, their work to improve their communities — I hear about the hope they have for our state. I also hear about our challenges, and all the work we have left to do. As I see it, that’s my job: to listen to you, act where I can to build on what’s good, and work on the tough parts. As 2018 comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to share an update on some of the work we’re doing in Washington to lift up the accomplishments of Maine people and make progress on the challenges they face.

From Portland to Presque Isle, from Milo to Camden, I hear about the pain that the opioid epidemic is inflicting on Maine communities. I’ve met with Maine people in recovery, family members of those struggling with substance use disorders, treatment providers, and law enforcement officials to learn about their experiences with this terrible disease, and everyone agrees that in order to fully respond to these problems, we need a stronger federal effort to end the opioid epidemic. Fortunately, some help is on the way — in October, we overwhelmingly passed a sweeping, bipartisan opioids bill. I’ve pushed hard for this type of legislation and was proud to have provisions I’ve advocated for included in the bill. These priorities have been guided by the voices of Maine people, and we’ll keep working to confront this tragic problem.

I’ve also worked to strengthen the future of our forest economy. Maine’s forests have powered our state’s economy for generations, especially in our rural communities. So, when rapid shifts in the market led to the closure of many pulp and paper mills and biomass power plants, it required a collaborative approach to support future growth in this important industry. That’s why, together with the other members of the state’s Congressional delegation, I pushed to establish the Economic Development Assessment Team (EDAT). This integrated, multiagency effort aims to foster innovation and commercialization in Maine’s forest economy, and we’re already seeing the benefits: in recent months, several forest industry businesses have announced significant investments into Maine operations, and in September 2018, the Forest Opportunity Roadmap (FOR)/Maine released an action plan to make sure this industry, and the rural communities it supports, can continue to thrive for generations to come.

As I close this letter, please allow me to express my gratitude to each of you — for your dedication to our state, and to one another. It’s often said that Maine is like a big small town (with very long streets) — that’s because at our heart, we’re one big community. It’s not only a pleasure to serve you— it’s a pleasure to know you. Thank you for being the reason Maine is so special. Mary and I hope that 2019 will be a good year for you, your family, your community, and our great State.

Best,

[Signature]

Angus S. King
United States Senator
Dear Friends and Residents of Mariaville,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your state senator. I am honored to have been chosen to represent you and your community in Augusta, and I promise to work hard on your behalf.

During this legislative session, I’m looking forward to working in a bipartisan manner on the issues that matter most to you and your families. I have been named chair of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. On the committee, I will work to ensure that those who have fought for our country receive the care they have earned. Having served with honor, veterans across Maine deserve the highest quality care and most meaningful recognition we can provide.

Access to broadband is another issue I hear about often. When rural communities lack high speed internet, it is more difficult to start a business, succeed in school, or move to the region. By improving access to broadband, we can help revitalize rural communities, take advantage of new economic opportunities, and attract and retain qualified young people. I’ve introduced legislation to create a plan and funding mechanism to expand broadband in rural communities.

If you have any other concerns or ideas for legislation, I am always available. Please feel free to call or email me anytime. We face challenges, but with this group of smart, talented, and committed lawmakers, I’m hopeful we can get things done. And while we may not always agree, I am always willing to listen and learn from all sides.

I can be reached at (207) 287-1515 or Louis.Luchini@legislature.maine.gov. I also encourage you to sign up to receive my regular legislative updates. Go to www.mainesenate.org to join my mailing list.

I look forward to working with you in this year!

Sincerely,

Louie Luchini
State Senator
January 2019

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to thank the people of District 136 for electing me as your State Representative. It is an incredible honor and privilege to represent you in The House of Representatives during the 129th Maine Legislature.

For the next two years I will be serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources as the House Republican Lead. On this panel, we will discuss many issues in regards to marine fisheries management. These matters are crucial to our community and I hope to hear from the fishermen in our community to discuss ways to improve the industry.

In order for me to represent you in the best ways possible, I need to hear your thoughts on all the issues that are important to you. Please, don't hesitate to call me anytime you feel you need my assistance. I may not know all the answers, but I will do my best to help you discover a solution to the problem. Moreover, I encourage you to monitor all legislative proposals being worked on at the State House by visiting the Legislature’s website at www.legislature.maine.gov. From here you can browse bill summaries and roll call votes, view session and public hearing schedules, listen to committee hearings or watch live streaming video of the House and Senate.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to represent you, the people of District 136. Please call me anytime at phone at 460-6967 or email at William.Faulkingham@legislature.maine.gov to keep me updated on those concerns. If you would like to be added to my email update list, you can do so by emailing me directly with your request.

Sincerely,

Billy Bob Faulkingham
State Representative