

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 14, 2017

The Honorable James Richard "Rick" Perry
Secretary of Energy
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Perry:

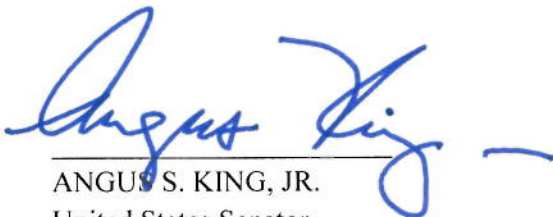
Congratulations on your recent confirmation. We are writing to formally invite you to the University of Maine to see firsthand the innovative work happening there in conjunction with the Department of Energy (DOE). As you are aware, there are a number of incredibly important partnerships that DOE is actively engaged in with the private sector and with universities across the country, and the University of Maine is one of those key partners. We appreciate your willingness to visit in response to Senator King's invitation during your confirmation hearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The University of Maine has partnered with DOE and private industry on a number of important initiatives in a relationship that has long been mutually beneficial. From the deployment of the first grid-connected offshore wind turbine prototype in North America, VoltturnUS 1:8, and the development of the groundbreaking offshore wind demonstration project New England Aqua Ventus I, to the most recent partnership between the University and Oak Ridge National Laboratory to advance innovative forest bio-based additive manufacturing, DOE, the University of Maine, and industry partners have been cooperating at the cutting edge of advanced energy research in this country for some time.


The University of Maine is home to world-class facilities, including the Advanced Structures and Composites Center, which is an interdisciplinary research, education, workforce training, and economic development center home to some of the nation's leading testing and research facilities for wind energy, wood composites, and other technologies. The Center includes the new Alford W2 Ocean Engineering Laboratory, a one-of-a-kind wind and wave testing facility that simulates deep water ocean conditions with applications for offshore energy development and ocean-based industries.

We hope you will visit the University of Maine as soon as your schedule permits. Please do not hesitate to contact us or have your staff reach out to James Springer (Senator King) at 202-224-5344 and Olivia Kurtz (Senator Collins) at 202-224-2523 if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working with you in your new role.

Sincerely,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator



SUSAN M. COLLINS
United States Senator