

Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Program
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW (Org. 2280)
Washington, D.C. 20240

December 6, 2013

Dear Mr. Loether:

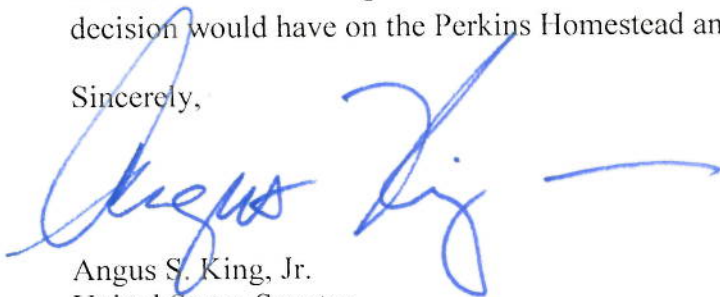
I am writing to express my strong support for designating the Perkins Homestead in Newcastle, Maine as a National Historic Landmark.

The Perkins Homestead is nationally significant as the ancestral home and summer residence of Frances Perkins, the first woman to serve in a presidential cabinet. There is no place more strongly associated with this figure of undisputed national significance. Secretary of Labor during the New Deal era, Frances Perkins held that office from 1933-45 through the entire presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She was the driving force behind programs that still provide financial security for all Americans: Social Security, unemployment insurance, and the minimum wage.

Visitors to the 57-acre homestead and its 1837 Brick House in Newcastle, Maine come away with a strong sense of the background and character of one of the most effective public servants of the twentieth century. Throughout her long career of public service Perkins preserved the home and its landscape features with few alterations. The house was built of bricks manufactured on site in the family's brickyard. The Perkins family has owned the property for over 250 years.

I applaud the Frances Perkins Center for nominating this site to honor the legacy of Frances Perkins so that current and future generations might be inspired by her example as a great American. I appreciate your efforts and please give every consideration to the nomination of the Perkins Homestead in Newcastle, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Adam Lachman in my office at (202) 224-5344. I look forward to hearing the outcome of this nomination and the great potential a favorable decision would have on the Perkins Homestead and the Midcoast region.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator