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Friends of Baxter State Park is a 501(c)(3) organization working to preserve, support and enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park in the spirit of its founder, Percival P. Baxter.

The park is to be preserved in its wild state as unspoiled wilderness.
- Governor Percival Baxter

July 12, 2011

The Honorable Mike Michaud
United States House of Representatives
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-1902

Dear Representative Michaud,

We are writing on behalf of the Friends of Baxter State Park, an independent citizen group working to preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park in the spirit of its founder, Governor Percival Baxter. Information about our organization and the many projects and activities of its 700+ members is available on the web at friendsofbaxter.org

Our Board of Directors recently had a conversation with Roxanne Quimby, owner of Elliottsville Plantation. She outlined her plans to donate to the National Park Service land that she owns, and some she intends to acquire, on the eastern border of Baxter State Park. The total land area she hopes to convey is approximately 140,000 acres. The 70,000 acres between Baxter State Park and the East Branch of the Penobscot River would become a National Park, and an additional 70,000 acres east of the East Branch would become a National Recreation Area and include multiple uses such as hunting and motorized recreation.

Her stated goals are to preserve much of this beautiful ecosystem in its natural state and enhance educational opportunities while creating a powerful engine for economic development in the region. She cites examples of other National Parks across the country where the economic activity generated by a national park has complemented the traditional industries such as logging or mining in that area and brought prosperity to the region.

Some of the land is yet to be acquired and much work is yet to be done in outlining details of how a National Park might benefit the citizens of the United States in general and of Maine in particular. However, we believe there are potentially strong benefits for the region and for Baxter State Park. A conservation buffer on any border of Baxter State Park has great potential benefit, and the creation of this National Park on the Park's eastern boundary is likely to provide a major ecological and social buffer protecting its wilderness character.

We understand that a first step in establishing a National Park such as the one envisioned by Roxanne Quimby is for Congress to authorize a feasibility study. **Our Board of Directors has voted unanimously to ask you to support such a study.**

Please feel free to contact us if you would like more information about our support of a National Park feasibility study.

Sincerely,

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