

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2025

The Honorable John Kennedy
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
Senate Committee on Appropriations
S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Fleishmann
Chair
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Kennedy, Ranking Member Murray, Chair Fleischmann, and Ranking Member Kaptur,

We are writing to express support for continued robust funding in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 for the Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC). In FY 2025 Congress appropriated \$41 million for the NBRC. We thank you for your past support of the NBRC and ask that you continue to invest in the program in FY 2026.


The NBRC, created in 2008 through the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-234), is a federal-state partnership that provides vital support for infrastructure and economic development initiatives in 60 rural counties in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, and Maine. These northern counties of our states have long been known for their entrepreneurship, especially forest product manufacturing. However, they have been impacted by shifting markets and the pressure of global competition. These challenges spurred the creation of the NBRC, designed to help alleviate distress and restore economic opportunity to the region. Authority and oversight functions of the NBRC are shared by five members, including the federal government represented by the Federal Co-Chair and the governors of each of our states. The NBRC has long received bipartisan support from Congress, and it was most recently reauthorized last Congress for an additional five years.

The NBRC is home to three critical programs. The Catalyst Program focuses on hard infrastructure investments in the region from water systems to childcare facilities, the Forest Economy Program supports the evolution and modernization of the region's forest-based

economy, and the newer Timber for Transit Program advances the use of innovative domestic forest products in transportation infrastructure projects across NBRC states. Since its creation, the NBRC has awarded more than \$281.5 million to 651 projects that have helped to create jobs, reduce poverty and unemployment and limit outmigration in Northern Forest communities. These investments have leveraged more than \$898.7 million in other public and private funds. Throughout the past year, the NBRC supported nearly 100 projects, including efforts to prevent childcare deserts, improve the pipeline of skilled workers, bolster the supply of affordable housing, and repair decaying infrastructure. Alongside these projects, the NBRC also assists our states in creating comprehensive economic development plans that incorporate the resources and input of local governments and the general public to identify high-need project areas.

We believe the NBRC is an important partnership meeting critical needs in our region, and that it should be maintained and supported with robust funding through the appropriations process. Thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to working together on this important program.

Sincerely,



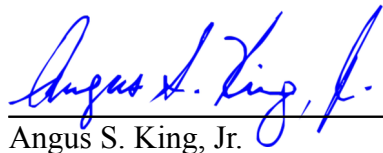
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



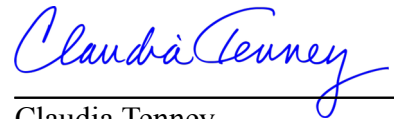
Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



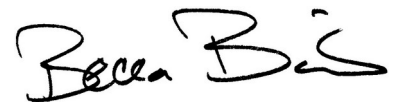
Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Peter Welch
United States Senator



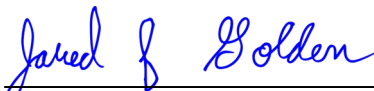
Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Jared Golden
Member of Congress