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United States Senate

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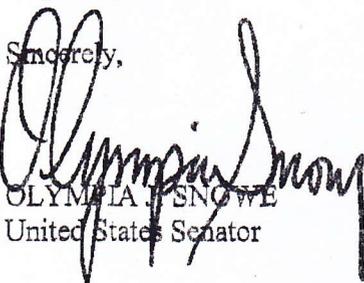
Dear Friends:

Thank you for the invitation to join in the celebration of the grand opening of the new Litchfield Fire and Rescue Central Station. I was so pleased to learn that Litchfield has constructed this wonderful new facility with the assistance of the federal government. I am disappointed that my schedule is such that I cannot be present personally today to share in the celebration.

At a time when emergency personnel, equipment and facilities have become even more critical to the safety in our communities after the events of September 11th, the establishment of this new facility is both timely and appropriate for the town of Litchfield. As you may know, recently I have been traveling to various communities throughout the state of Maine holding community roundtable discussions. This has given me an opportunity to sit down personally with local, county, state and federal officials to discuss the state's emergency preparedness and security at all levels of government, and to also discuss personal and economic security issues. As a result, I have become even more focused on the specific security details, and the specific amounts of funding that is needed from the federal government to accomplish Maine's security goals. Such assistance, as you may have heard, has been made available by my support in the Senate as well as that of Congress for an appropriation of \$20 billion to the Office of Homeland Security, where Director Tom Ridge has been named as the head official. You may be assured that I will advocate to the best of my ability to make this money easily accessible to states and municipalities in our effort to secure our piece of the homeland, the great state of Maine.

Again, congratulations on receiving this new emergency facility. And please accept my best wishes for a most enjoyable grand opening celebration.

Sincerely,


OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator

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