



UNITED STATES SENATE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510

OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
MAINE

October 16, 2009

Dear Friends,

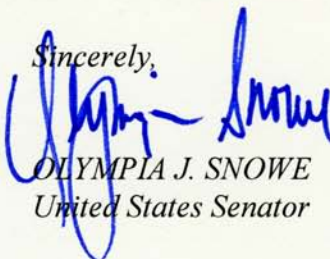
Please accept my warmest greetings as you gather to celebrate the grand opening of the University of Southern Maine's newly expanded Osher Map Library and Smith Center for Cartographic Education. What a momentous occasion!

As you know, the Library and Center will house a landmark collection of the cartographic history of our local communities and the State of Maine. From its beginning in 1986 with the generous gift from Eleanor Houston Smith in memory of her husband, and followed shortly thereafter with another contribution of maps from Dr. and Mrs. Harold Osher, the collection has been nationally recognized as one of the finest map libraries.

Given its reputation and quality, OML was destined for a new home, and a capital campaign was undertaken - the result of which we are proud to witness and honor today. What an incredible journey it has been for all involved! And so, I couldn't be more pleased to join with you in commemorating a new chapter in the storied narrative of this exceptional institution which has been a shining beacon for learning and a testament to the academic excellence associated with the University.

Congratulations on this milestone event, and thank you for allowing me to share a few words, and express grateful appreciation to the Smith and Osher families.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE
United States Senator