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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

January 3, 2012

Dear Friends:

I want to thank you for the opportunity to extend my warm greetings to the people of Waterville, and take just a moment to offer a few thoughts about the past year as we look ahead to the year to come. Indisputably, as we continue to face historic challenges as a nation, as a state, and as individual towns and cities, our economy remains of paramount concern, and justifiably so, as we are still plagued by the worst economic downturn since World War II. Indeed, as countless Mainers have conveyed to me in roundtable discussions and on Main Street tours, the crushing job creation drought that too many have endured for far too long must not become the new normal.

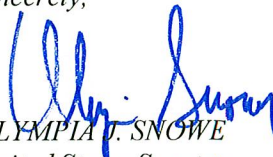
Thankfully, there are steps that Congress and the Administration can take right now to expand our private sector. We can best unleash the genius and innovation that have made our country the most exceptional in human history, I believe, by addressing the following three pro-growth pillars, consisting of a balanced budget amendment, regulatory reform, and tax code overhaul, all of which I have championed in the Senate.

It is long past time that Congress bridge the partisan divide and unite around a pro-growth jobs agenda to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution just as Maine and 48 other states already have, to end the regulatory rampage in Washington that has hamstrung our economy, and to overhaul the far-too-complicated, unwieldy tax code. American taxpayers expend 7.6 billion hours and spend \$140 billion – or one percent of GDP – just struggling to comply with tax filing requirements – and that burden must end.

The fundamental question is, what kind of country do we want America to be? Mainers, like all Americans, are rightly frustrated and angry that we have an expansionist government and a record accumulation of debt, and yet they don't see any positive difference in their own lives. I share that frustration and anger. And I hope you will work with me to forge a brighter future worthy of the greatest nation on Earth, bearing in mind as we move forward that economic and homeland security cannot be mutually exclusive. In that light, we remember today – and every day – the extraordinary service and sacrifice of our brave servicemen and women in Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world who comprise the finest defense force on the planet.

Please be assured, I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of the people of Maine and America. I encourage you to visit my Senate website at www.snowe.senate.gov for additional details on how you can join with me in these efforts, obtain helpful government information, and share any concerns or legislative input you may have. You may also visit with members of my staff at my Regional Office located at 40 Western Avenue, Room 412 in Augusta or by calling 622-8292 or toll free in Maine at 1-800-432-1599.

Sincerely,



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