

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 1, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to request that you use your authority under the Antiquities Act of 1906 to issue a proclamation designating the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historical Landmark as a national monument, thus safeguarding the legacy of one of the most influential women in modern American history.

Frances Perkins, who made her home in Maine, was a trailblazer, the first female presidential cabinet member, the mother of the modern labor movement, and a pioneering advocate for social justice, economic security, and labor rights. In her role as Secretary of Labor, she was principal architect of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal and developed many of its foundational policies, including the 40-hour workweek, unemployment insurance, and the minimum wage.

She also chaired the commission that created the Social Security program, which was signed into law by President Roosevelt on Aug. 14, 1935. For 89 years, the American people have depended on Social Security. No program in American history has been more successful or done more to lift seniors out of poverty, establish a financial safety net for people with disabilities, and safeguard the well-being of children. Social Security has allowed Americans to retain their independence and their dignity.

The Perkins family first settled in Newcastle, Maine in the 1750s, where several generations farmed the land and operated a brickyard along the Damariscotta River. Frances spent formative years of her life there and always considered it her home. The Frances Perkins Center, now located at the Homestead, has long worked to shine a light on her legacy and is the only place fully dedicated to telling the story of a remarkable national icon. There, visitors can learn about a groundbreaking woman who broke through gender barriers to improve the lives of working people across the country.

By designating the Frances Perkins Homestead National Historical Landmark as a national monument, more people will learn about this incredible woman and about the power of government to be a force for good.

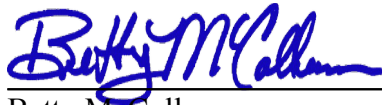
Establishing this national monument would further contribute to the Biden-Harris Administration's goal under Executive Order 14121 to strengthen the National Park Service's recognition of the role of women who have contributed to our country's history. Frances Perkins is a beacon for our better selves and the progress that can be made when the good of the people comes first. A national monument is a fitting tribute to such ideas and to Frances Perkins, who helped to turn them into action.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to permanently conserve the only place fully dedicated to sharing the story of the pioneering Frances Perkins.

Sincerely,



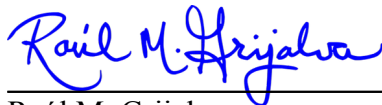
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



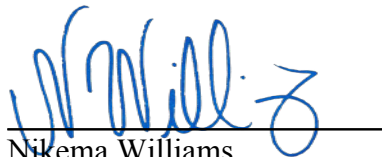
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



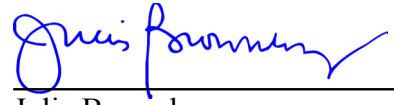
Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



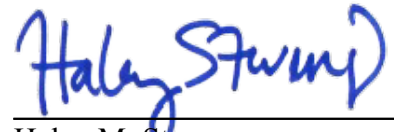
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



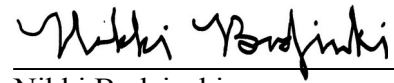
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



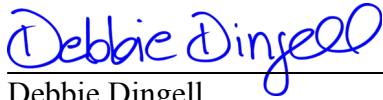
Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



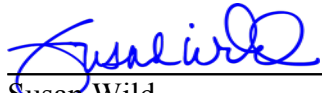
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



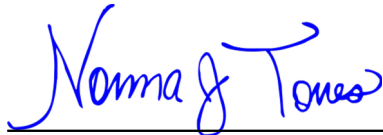
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



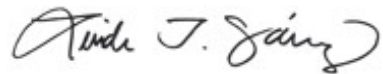
JM Tokuda
Member of Congress



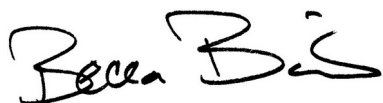
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



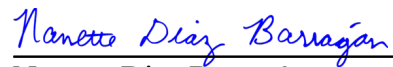
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



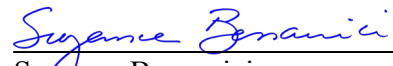
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



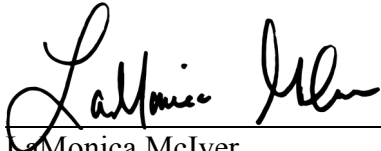
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



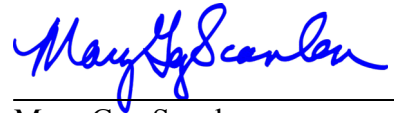
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



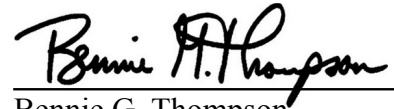
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



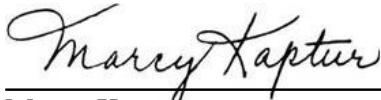
Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress




Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



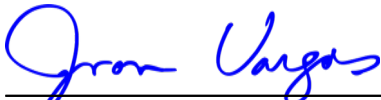
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Al Green
Member of Congress