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CHELLIE PINGREE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, MAINE

August 8, 2024

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES  
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES, *CHAIR*  
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,  
AND RELATED AGENCIES  
HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND  
RESEARCH  
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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

Dear President Biden,

I 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 signed into law by President Roosevelt on Aug. 14, 1935. For nearly 89 years, Social Security has been there for the American people. 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.

Frances Perkins dedicated herself to assuring a decent standard of living in good times and bad for seniors, women, and all working Americans. Her impact continues today in the countless lives that are touched by her work.

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 Francis 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. I look forward to working with you to permanently conserve the only place fully dedicated to sharing the story of the pioneering Frances Perkins.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chellie Pingree", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress