

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 13, 2016

New Hampshire Coastal Adaptation Workgroup
C/O Hugh Gregg Coastal Conservation Center and the Great Bay Discovery Center
89 Depot Road
Greenland, NH 03840

Dear Friends,

Please accept my best wishes as you gather today to discuss the pressing environmental issues that face New Hampshire's coastal region.

This summit convenes New Englanders from a variety of disciplines who grasp one fundamental truth: that climate change is occurring, and inaction to understand and reverse its effects poses a significant threat to a key piece of our state's identity. New Hampshire's beautiful coastline is a source of pride for many, and its scenic landscapes and recreational opportunities draw many others to the region who support our local economy. This is why it is as important as ever to take every effort to preserve our coastal climate. And that is what brings scientists, municipal leaders, town planners, local business owners and concerned citizens here today to try to find solutions and ways to adapt to this pressing issue.

Last December, I traveled to Paris alongside nine of my Senate colleagues to attend the 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference. I joined key international negotiators, world leaders and businesses who shared a firm resolve to reach an ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions. In the Senate, we worked to secure needed funding for the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and the Coastal Management Grant Program. These international and national efforts are a reflection of the work you are doing here on the local level to better understand and avoid the severe environmental and economic impacts of climate change.

It has been said that we are the first generation to feel the impact of climate change, and the last generation that can commit to doing something about it. And that commitment is underway. Through collaborative discussions like these, we can plot an approach to climate change that preserves the New Hampshire we have come to know and love. I will continue to support your work and urge my colleagues – as well as the citizens of New Hampshire – to do the same in recognizing the imperative of addressing climate change.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator