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Government

# Winterport Water District awarded \$710,000

WINTERPORT (May 2): U.S. Sens. Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded \$14.2 million to Maine for water and environmental projects, including \$710,000 for the Winterport Water District.

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The funding is being distributed to Maine through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Sens. Snowe and Collins worked with a bipartisan group of senators to craft the legislation that became law in February.

"We are pleased to announce this critical funding that will not only repair and improve water treatment facilities across Maine but will create crucial jobs in the process," Sens. Snowe and Collins said.

"By investing in rural infrastructure, these USDA programs will help Maine communities provide essential services, boost economic growth, and increase the quality of life for residents throughout the state."

Locally, the Winterport Water District was awarded \$710,000. The project will eliminate the threat of partially untreated wastewater entering the Penobscot River and causing the potential for public health issues. It will create approximately 44 jobs in the area. The project is leveraged with the Maine DEP State Revolving Loan Fund which will provide \$1,185,000 or 63 percent of total project cost, which is estimated at \$1,895,000. The sewer system serves 282 residential customers, 19 commercial customers, and seven governmental customers, for a total of 308.

According to the USDA, the Rural Development Water and Environmental Program provides loans and grants to ensure the necessary investments are made in water and wastewater infrastructure to deliver safe drinking water and protect the environment in rural areas.

More information about USDA rural Development can be found at [rurdev.usda.gov](http://rurdev.usda.gov).

The Republican Journal Editor Beth Staples can be reached at 207-338-0484 or by e-mail at [bstaples@villagesoup.com](mailto:bstaples@villagesoup.com).

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