

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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August 11, 2021

The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel  
Acting Chairwoman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel:

In Maine, our single area code is both a cultural touchstone and a matter of efficiency. We therefore share the Maine Public Utilities Commission's (MPUC) interest in preventing the projected 2024 exhaustion of area code 207 and the disruption this would cause for people in Maine. On behalf of residents and businesses across our state, we urge the Commission to explore all available possibilities — of which there are many — to avoid the exhaustion of the 207 area code. Specifically, we strongly support MPUC's petition to evaluate and implement individual telephone number pooling as a pilot effort in Maine. This proposal would address gaping inefficiencies in the current system and allow Mainers to use the 207 area code exclusively for many years to come.

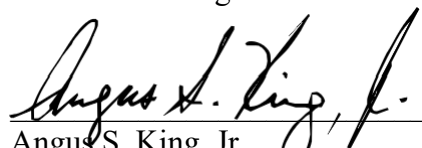
Maine has had its single area code since 1947, leading 207 to become widely used as a shorthand for Maine identity. Across our state, there are businesses and organizations that incorporate 207 into their branding. In short, for Mainers, 207 is synonymous with their home state, and it would be a great disappointment to lose this one-to-one link — especially if it can be reasonably avoided. As MPUC noted in its petition, Maine's overall number utilization is 37 percent, leaving a sufficient quantity of unused numbers to reallocate.

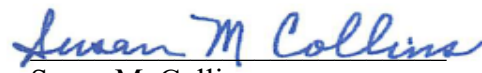
Given the longstanding existence of the single area code, businesses frequently omit the area code when displaying their phone number on signage and advertising. Exhaustion of area code 207 and introduction of an additional area code would create substantial inconvenience for consumers and economic costs for businesses. We believe Maine is in a position to trial number optimization strategies and prevent the exhaustion of area code 207.

Thank you for considering our request. Please contact us with any questions about this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress

  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator

  
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Brendan Carr  
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks  
The Honorable Nathan Simington