United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 8, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to enthusiastically recommend Mr. Mark Scarano for a position on the Northern Border Regional Commission. His extensive leadership, experience and commitment to New England's economic development makes him well qualified to serve in this position.

Since 2006, Mr. Scarano has served as the Chief Executive Officer for the Grafton County Economic Development Council in New Hampshire. Mr. Scarano manages economic development activities for Grafton County with 88,000 residents, and he oversees a $3.5 million revolving loan fund that has helped dozens of businesses in the County. Serving as CEO for the last eight years, Mr. Scarano has nearly tripled the organization's revenues through a combination of grants, public funding and corporate contributions. In addition, Mr. Scarano worked with a coalition of universities, colleges, county and local elected officials to attract over $15 million in job-creating corporate investments, including a biomass power plant and a cellulosic ethanol R&D operation.

Prior to his work on the Grafton County Economic Development Council, Mr. Scarano served as the Business Development Director and Executive Director for the Piscataquis County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) in Maine. While serving as Business Development Director, Mr. Scarano organized a partnership between the community and two private manufacturing companies to bring 140 new jobs to the County.

During his time as Executive Director for PCEDC, Mr. Scarano doubled revenues through grants, corporate contributions and public funds. He created the first Community Development Specialist's position within the PCEDC in response to municipal requests for technical assistance. Along with the University of Maine, he successfully started a non-profit business incubator that was focused on growing and expanding business opportunities for entrepreneurs, as well as small and medium sized companies.

We believe it is vital to nominate an individual with a proven track record of working with stakeholders from across the region and someone who is committed to addressing the community and economic development needs of the Northern Forest region. Mr. Scarano has built a successful career working with others to manage and grow economic development, and we believe he is especially qualified to serve the Northern Border Regional Commission.

We appreciate your consideration of this recommendation. If we can provide additional information concerning Mr. Scarano and his qualifications for this position, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator