
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

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SENATOR GREGG SECURES \$1.9 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION OF SAGAMORE CREEK HIGHLANDS

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will soon be releasing \$1.9 million to the City of Portsmouth for the purchase and protection of the Sagamore Creek Highlands property, a ten-acre tract identified by the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau as an “exemplary” salt marsh. Senator Gregg serves as the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for NOAA and was instrumental in securing the funding for this project through the Coastal Estuarine Land Protection Program that he initiated.

Senator Gregg stated, “The protection of the Sagamore Creek land, one of the largest salt water frontage properties left in New Hampshire, is a tremendous opportunity for the City of Portsmouth to ensure the healthy future of one of its environmental jewels. The terrific views from the property and the easy access it offers to the water and downtown Portsmouth made the land a probable target for development, something that will be averted due to this funding. The preservation of the Sagamore Creek property is a model for how to promote environmental protection and open space preservation in partnership with landowners, and I am pleased to have been able to secure the resources for the project.”

Sam Hodder, project manager for the Trust for Public Land, stated, “We greatly appreciate Senator Gregg’s leadership and hard work in securing funding to protect the Sagamore Creek headlands. This remarkable property includes significant wildlife habitat, a waterfront trail on Sagamore Creek, and rock outcroppings above the water with magnificent views.”

Portsmouth Mayor Evelyn Sirrell stated, “The Sagamore Creek project furthers the City’s goal of obtaining and protecting open space. The land at Sagamore Creek is important to Portsmouth residents for environmental and passive recreation purposes. Senator Gregg continues to play a leading role in helping the City address priority environmental and other issues and I am grateful for his support.”

As a result of his work with the Great Bay National Estuary, Senator Gregg developed the Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Program, a national coastal program for land acquisition based on the popular U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program. Senator Gregg appropriated \$37.7 million in Fiscal Year 2003, including \$1.9 million for the Sagamore Creek Highlands in Portsmouth, and \$15.8 million in FY02. For FY04, Senator Gregg’s CELP legislation, S. 861, would authorize \$60 million through NOAA, which would promote coordinated land acquisition and protection efforts among non-governmental organizations and federal, state and local governments for the purpose of protecting important coastal and estuarine resources.

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