To: Senator Susan Collins

Senator Angus King

Date: February 19, 2021

Dear Senators Collins and King,

The U.S. trade embargo against Cuba has been in effect for almost 60 years. We, the undersigned, believe that's long enough. Senator Ron Wyden of Oregon, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, on February 4 introduced the *U.S.-Cuba Trade Act of 2021.* We presume a similar bill will be introduced soon in the House of Representatives.

Senator Wyden's proposed legislation appears to nullify regulations that enable the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. In other words, it would end the embargo. We realize that, as required by the *Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (Libertad) Act* of 1996, the power to end the embargo against Cuba rests exclusively with the U.S. Congress.

We understand too that public support for the U.S. embargo against Cuba has lessened. On the one hand, many citizens have long pointed to its cruelty and illegality. On the other, even supporters can appreciate that this U. S. policy has failed the test of so many years: it hasn't worked to bring down Cuba's government. Meanwhile, the Cuban people have experienced catastrophic damage at U.S. hands.

Cuba's government, reporting recently to the United Nations General Assembly, indicated that between April 2019 and March 2020, U. S. economic sanctions deprived Cuba of $5.6 billion, also that Cuba's total monetary loss over many decades has amounted to $144.4 billion, which, with inflation, is $1.098 trillion.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you, who represent us in the U.S. Senate, do everything in your power to end the U.S. embargo against Cuba. In that regard, we urge you to work toward passage in the Senate of Senator Wyden's bill.

Any questions or comments relating to our request may be directed to Tom Whitney of Maine Citizens Opposed to the US Embargo against Cuba. His address is 102 Twitchell Road, South Paris, Maine, 04281; telephone (207) 743-2183.

We would appreciate your office acknowledging receipt of this communication.