



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

May 14, 2025

Friends of Fly Rod Committee
198 Milford Road
Grand Lake Stream, Maine 04668

Dear Members:

I write to you in strong support of your efforts to create and locate a bronze statue of Maine's first registered guide, Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby at the new headquarters of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in Augusta. As governor, it would be an honor to accept this gift on behalf of the Department and the State.

The dedicated biologists, game wardens, and educators at the Department ensure that our treasured outdoors can be enjoyed responsibly by everyone and that our inland fisheries and wildlife remain healthy for generations to come. No one embodies that mission more than Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby — an avid angler who devoted much of her adult life to promoting and preserving outdoor recreation in Maine.

As you may know, Cornelia used her skills as a talented writer to bring Maine's wilderness to life, sharing tips and tricks that encouraged others to go outside. She led bold, imaginative exhibitions at national sportsmen's shows, defying societal norms and risking scandal to market the state of Maine — and to show women and girls that they, too, belonged in the outdoors. Her advocacy for the protection of fish and game also laid the groundwork for the thriving community of licensed guides we still have today.

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's new headquarters in Augusta will welcome tens of thousands of people — hunters, anglers, students, paddlers, guides, birders, hikers and others — who are seeking not only their licenses or registrations, but recreational education, nature hikes, and access to the Kennebec River.

I can think of no better symbol to greet them than a statue of Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, who once said "I would rather fish any day than go to heaven." As I write this, I am thinking about practicing casting, and I find I couldn't agree more.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills".

Janet T. Mills
Governor

