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Contact: Press@BetsySweet.com

**“TURNING BOLD IDEAS INTO CHANGE”: US SENATE CANDIDATE BETSY SWEET
SECURES ANOTHER MAJOR ENDORSEMENT**

Progressive Democrats for America joins a list of prominent national organizations endorsing Sweet, including Justice Democrats, Democracy for America, and Blue America.

AUGUSTA, ME (October 30, 2019) - Progressive Democrats of America announced today that they will be endorsing Betsy Sweet in the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate in Maine. Sweet received 90% support in PDA's endorsement poll. Founded in 2004, PDA is a grassroots organization which aims to build a Democratic party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites. Sweet has also been endorsed by other national progressive organizations, including Justice Democrats, who helped elect U.S. Representative Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, Democracy for America and Blue America.

In her announcement [speech](#), Sweet described protecting women's reproductive rights, passing Medicare For All, barring corporate money from state and federal elections, and taking bold action on the climate crisis as central in her decision to run for the Democratic nomination against Republican Senator Susan Collins. She argued that Maine voters are not seeing their demands met in Washington, pointing to Senator Collins' perceived allegiance with President Trump and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell as a key reason why.

Statement from PDA's National Team:

“It is absolutely essential that the Democratic Party win control of the U.S. Senate away from Mitch McConnell in 2020. For that to happen, we must flip the Maine Senate seat next year.

Republican Susan Collins is more-than-vulnerable, following her disgraceful support for Brett Kavanaugh. That's why we endorsed Betsy Sweet in this key battleground.



Betsy is a pioneering progressive activist who listens and brings people together to turn bold ideas into change that helps those who need it most. She is one of the two front runners for the nomination and she is a true progressive champion!

In contrast to her moderate Democratic opponent, Betsy is an outspoken advocate for Medicare for All, strong environmental policies, and has statewide name recognition from her days as a lead advocate for Maine's groundbreaking Clean Money statute.

Betsy was a prominent advocate for Maine's groundbreaking Clean Election Act, and she's championed public financing, instant runoff / ranked choice voting etc. She's run statewide before, and has an energized base of support. She is committed to running a clean campaign, accepting no corporate donations.

Betsy is a lifelong feminist organizer, which makes her the perfect foe for Susan Collins. Most importantly, Betsy is perfectly in line with the progressive spirit that is sweeping the Democratic Party. Indeed, the two great Progressive Senators vying for the Presidential nomination hail from the same region as Betsy. New England is ready for a third brilliant Progressive Senator, Betsy Sweet."

A former director of the Maine Women's Lobby and the Maine Commission for Women, as well as a small business owner, Sweet has spent her career advocating for people with disabilities, the elderly, women, children, and low-income individuals and families. She gained statewide prominence in 2018, when she ran in the Democratic primary for Governor. Sweet was the only person to run as a clean elections candidate, and she helped write and pass the 1996 Maine Clean Election Act. Sweet was the first major candidate to [announce](#) her candidacy for U.S. Senate against Susan Collins on June 13, 2019.

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