

# TOWN OF BAR HARBOR

Finance Department  
93 Cottage Street  
Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

Sarah M. Gilbert, Treasurer/Interim Town Manager

email: [sgilbert@barharbormaine.gov](mailto:sgilbert@barharbormaine.gov)

---

5/17/2023

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant. The application details MaineDOT’s funding need and comprehensive plan to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state via the Recharge Maine Project (“Project”). There are gaps in the state’s EV charging station map and additional charging stations will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along Federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”).
- Ensure locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists.
- Assist Maine in meeting its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Ensure funding received is consistent with that of other states.

The Project will equitably provide public charging in our community, serving individuals who do not have access to it at home such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings. The Project will benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce ‘range anxiety’ by closing gaps between charging locations which will alleviate hesitation about making the switch to EVs. We are deeply concerned that Maine’s \$14 billion tourism industry will suffer if the state is unable to make an adequate number of safe and convenient EV chargers available to tourists.

Bar Harbor is one of four towns on Mount Desert Island, home of Acadia National Park. Each year our small town of 5,000 persons swells to over 20,000 with visitors from all over the world. Most visitors arrive via automobile, greater access to EV charging stations would have multiple levels of benefits, foremost, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Serving visitors will not only ensure the continued tourism industry but will also benefit residents with access to EV stations that is very limited currently.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine are seeking discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important Project. The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help the state reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community – residents and tourists – can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Gilbert*

Sarah Gilbert  
Interim Town Manager