



Islesboro Economic Sustainability Corporation

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August 29, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: Support for the Federal Transit Administration FY2022 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program

Dear U.S. Secretary Buttigieg:

Islesboro, Maine is a rural offshore island community of roughly 600 year-round residents served by the Maine State Ferry Service (MSFS). We are a close-knit community of fishermen, tradespeople, gardeners, contractors, caretakers, teachers, small business owners and a smattering of retirees.

The IESC is a privately funded *economic development corporation* supporting the island's essential services and businesses that we need to underpin a vital, full-time community. We support local entrepreneurs creating on-island jobs that attract new families by providing information, business expansion loans and direct investments in infrastructure projects.

We can't overemphasize how essential the MSFS vehicle and passenger ferry service is for our very existence as a community. This is the most-traveled MSFS route and our island's key lifeline - the only way for vehicles, goods, services, people, and emergency medical transport to travel on and off.

The IESC wishes to express its strong support for the Maine State Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) proposal for the FY2022 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program. They are seeking funding to construct an all-electric or hybrid replacement for our venerable but aging diesel-powered ferry, *Margaret Chase Smith*. This propulsion choice reflects the will of the Islesboro community as well as Maine's electric vehicle and transportation emissions-reduction goals.

This proposal to fund an all-electric or hybrid replacement for our beloved *Maggy* is key to our survival as a community. It will reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our unique Penobscot Bay area, improve our ferry service and provide decades of islander access to work, education, and services through safe, reliable, and economical public transportation. These are all essential to maintaining our community's vitality. Please give this MaineDOT proposal all due consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Heinen, Chair on behalf of the IESC Board.