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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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July 18, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

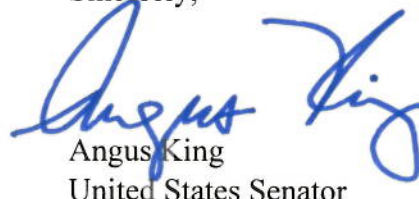
I'm writing in strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Grant Program. MaineDOT's proposed project is crucial for the upgrades and modernization of two aging ferry terminals that connect the year-round, rural island community of Islesboro, Maine to the mainland.

MaineDOT's project aims to enhance the capacity of the existing terminals to accommodate a new plug-in hybrid ferry, which is expected to be delivered in 2027. With a length 37 feet greater than its predecessor, the new ferry will be able to transport 10 additional vehicles, addressing the growing demand for this essential service. The project includes upgrading the electrical infrastructure at the terminals, enabling high-speed charging for the new ferry. This vessel will primarily operate on battery power, supported by a diesel backup system, and is an important part of statewide efforts to move to cleaner transportation infrastructure.

The current ferry terminals, constructed in 1959, are reaching the end of their service life. Therefore, it is imperative to secure the necessary funding and undertake this project to ensure the safe and reliable transportation service that MaineDOT provides the residents of Islesboro and the many visitors who travel to the island yearly.

Thank you for your consideration of MaineDOT's application. I sincerely urge you to support their proposal, in accordance with all rules and regulation. Please contact Adam Lachman on my staff (202) 224-5344 with any questions and when a decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Angus King
United States Senator

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