



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

July 24, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am pleased to send you the following letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022-2023 Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program to help assist in funding the *Caribou Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Crossing project*.

MaineDOT's project will take place at the bottom of two significant downslopes on Route 164 in Caribou, Maine. This section of road, because of its design, collects standing water creating a hazard for motorists. This location has also been identified as a high deer crash location, with 11 crashes recorded within a half mile of the culvert in the last ten years. This number likely underrepresents the actual vehicle/animal crash history.

This project proposes to construct an open-bottom pre-cast concrete arch culvert, approximately 30 feet wide by 17 feet high and 96 feet long. This new culvert will incorporate a simulated natural stream channel with a raised shelf along the top of the channel bank to provide passage for moose, deer, and other large wildlife. In addition, fencing will be constructed to encourage wildlife to pass through the proposed culvert.

I fully support MaineDOT and its request for funding through this discretionary grant program, and I urge you to give their application full consideration. This project will not only mitigate against climate change and promote sustainability by making the roadway less vulnerable to storm surges and extreme precipitation events, but will enhance the safety of motorists and the area wildlife. Please do not hesitate to contact me or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note with any questions you might have regarding this project or my support.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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