

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1902

October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am pleased to submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's TIGER grant application for funding assistance for the Penquis Region Rural Bridge Project. This vital funding would assist in the replacement of three important regional bridges in central Maine that have been deemed structurally deficient, or in need of serious repair.

As you may know, Maine has the highest proportion of its residents living in rural areas which creates unique transportation challenges. Mainers depend on reliable infrastructure to conduct everyday business, access schools and emergency services. Replacing them now, prior to a forced closure, will allow for a more cost-efficient project. Moreover, if any of the three bridges close, users will be forced to detour which could significantly impact their safety.

I wholeheartedly support MaineDOT's efforts to secure this grant funding, and implore you to give their application your full consideration. I would be happy to speak to you regarding this letter, my support, or the department's efforts in providing reliable transportation to my constituents in rural Maine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Bruce Poliquin