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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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APPROPRIATIONS  
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ON INTELLIGENCE

August 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write in support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) and Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program (WCPP). MaineDOT requests federal support for the Caribou Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Crossing project that will help address motorist safety and wildlife conservation through the construction of a new culvert.

The existing culvert on Route 164 in Caribou, Maine, accumulates standing water and poses a considerable hazard for motorists who rely on this passage in northern Maine. Further, this area has been identified as a high deer crash location, recording 11 crashes within a half-mile over the past decade.

Federal funds will aid MaineDOT in the construction of a new culvert to allow for Mainers' safe access to downtown Caribou while also incorporating a simulated natural channel and raised shelf for the passage of marine species and large wildlife such as deer and moose. This design will promote transit for northern Maine residents, tourists, and logging and farming operations, while also reducing wildlife vehicle crashes. Construction of this culvert will increase safety and restore habitat connectivity, serving as a model for similar projects around the nation.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the Maine Department of Transportation. I urge your careful consideration of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify me, or your staff notify Jordan Lawlor at (202) 224-2523, when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator