

August 16, 2024

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: **Maine Department of Transportation's** application to fund the ***Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project*** under the **FY 2024-2025 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program**

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy in Maine (TNC), I am writing to express our support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") grant application for the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. This project, *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* ("Project"), is supported by project partner, Efficiency Maine Trust ("Efficiency Maine") and aims to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Maine, particularly in areas facing climate change-related resiliency challenges.

The Nature Conservancy is dedicated to creating a world where people and nature thrive and has been directly involved in efforts to reduce emissions across the state. TNC has worked closely with both MaineDOT and project partner, Efficiency Maine Trust on projects that support energy resilience and respond to the impacts of climate change.

With this funding, MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will install 64 DC Fast Charger ports across 10 communities and at 6 hospitals. The locations—primarily near the State's numerous peninsulas and along flood-prone rivers—have increasingly faced flooding and prolonged power outages due to severe weather. Other locations support affected communities during evacuations from such events.

The Project will:

- Improve charger availability during widespread power outages;
- Ensure communities statewide, including disadvantaged and rural areas, have equitable access to charging infrastructure; and
- Help Maine meet its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

Expanding EV infrastructure is the key to helping both residents and Maine's many visitors feel more confident about adopting EVs and the availability of power during extreme weather events. The widespread adoption of EVs is critical to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the State's natural resources. Resilience has been a commonly cited barrier to EV adoption across our state, and investments to combat this obstacle will help achieve our emissions reductions targets in the state and across the region.

TNC respectfully requests that the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to MaineDOT's application to the *Chargers to Promote Resilience Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitlyn Nuzzo". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kaitlyn Nuzzo  
Government Relations Director  
The Nature Conservancy in Maine