

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. It is our firm belief that this project is of utmost importance for the safe and efficient transportation of individuals and goods in the region.

Through their application, MaineDOT is seeking \$17.5 million in funding to modernize two aging, rural ferry terminals that serve as vital links between the mainland and the year-round island community of Islesboro located three miles off the coast of Maine. The existing ferry terminals, constructed in 1959, are nearing the end of their service life and require immediate attention to ensure the continued operation of this essential service.

The key objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of the terminals to accommodate a new plug-in hybrid ferry, scheduled for delivery in 2027. This state-of-the-art vessel, 37 feet longer than its predecessor, will be capable of carrying 10 additional vehicles, addressing the growing demand for transportation to and from Islesboro. Furthermore, the project includes the crucial upgrade of electrical infrastructure at the terminals, enabling high-speed charging capabilities for the new ferry. With its primary battery power and diesel backup system, this modernized vessel represents a significant step towards sustainable transportation in the region.

Thank you for your time on behalf of MaineDOT. We urge your full and fair consideration of their application, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Corrinne Latti at 202-225-6116 (Pingree) or Barbara Hayslett at 207-492-6009 (Golden).

Sincerely,



Chellie Pingree
United States Representative



Jared Golden
United State Representative