

TOWN OF ISLESBORO
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Janet R. Anderson
Town Manager
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June 5, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are 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 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. MaineDOT is requesting funding from the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program to modernize two aging, rural ferry terminals linking the mainland to a year-round island community. The two ferry terminals were built in 1959.


This project will support the safe and efficient operation of a new plug-in hybrid ferry that is scheduled for delivery in 2028 providing a vital link between the mainland and an island community that is three miles off the Maine coast.

The proposed work will expand the capacity of the terminals to accommodate a new hybrid ferry that is 37 feet longer than the vessel that it will replace. The ferry will accommodate 10 more vehicles than the vessel it is replacing in order to keep up with demand for the service. The work also will upgrade the electrical infrastructure at the terminals to allow for high-speed charging of the new ferry, which will run primarily on battery power with diesel backup. The ferry is expected to be delivered in 2028. **We fully support Maine DOT's application for the Rural Communities Program.** This funding would enhance a crucial transportation service to and from Lincolnville to the Maine island community of Islesboro.

Sincerely,


Shey V. Conover

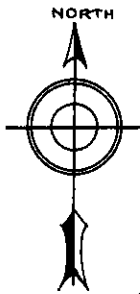

Lauren K Bruce


Melissa A. Burns


Peter H. Anderson

Islesboro Select Board

MAP OF ISLESBORO MAINE



TO BELFAST
12 MILES

TO CAMDEN
6 MILES

LINCOLNVILLE
BEACH

ISLESBORO
FERRY

P E N O B S C O T B A Y

ISLESBORO
WARREN'S ISLAND
SEVEN HUNDRED ACRE ISLAND
ENSIGN ISLAND
BILLY JOBS ISLAND
TOWN BEACH
PICNIC AREA
ISLESBORO MEMORIAL
FERRY TERMINAL
WARREN'S ISLAND
SPRUCE ISLAND
GILKEY'S HARBOR
YACHT CLUB
TURTLE HEAD
SPRAGUES BEACH
MEADOW POND
PRIPET
POINT COMFORT
RYOERS COVE
SEAL HARBOR
CROW COVE
THE NARROWS
HEWES POINT



If Once You Have Slept On An Island

If once you have slept on an island
You'll never be quite the same;
You may look as you looked the day before
And go by the same old name.

You may bustle about in street and shop;
You may sit at home and sew,
But you'll see blue water and wheeling gulls
Wherever your feet may go.

You may chat with the neighbors of this and that
And close to your fire keep,
But you'll hear ship whistle and lighthouse bell
And tides beat through your sleep.

Oh, you won't know why, and you can't say how
Such change upon you came,
But once you have slept on an island
You'll never be quite the same!

Rachel Field

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