



131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

June 25, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write today 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. MaineDOT's proposed project is crucial for the modernization of two aging, rural ferry terminals that connect our constituents who live on the year-round island community of Islesboro, Maine to the mainland.

MaineDOT's project aims to enhance the capacity of the existing terminals to accommodate a new plug-in hybrid ferry, which is expected to be delivered in 2028. With a length 37 feet greater than its predecessor, the new ferry will be able to transport 10 additional vehicles, addressing the growing demand for this essential service. Furthermore, the project includes upgrading the electrical infrastructure at the terminals, enabling high-speed charging for the new ferry. This vessel will primarily operate on battery power, supported by a diesel backup system.

The current ferry terminals, constructed in 1959, are reaching the end of their service life. Therefore, it is imperative to secure the necessary funding and undertake this project to ensure the safe and reliable transportation service that MaineDOT provides to our constituents and the many visitors to travel to Islesboro yearly.

We urge you to award MaineDOT the funding they are seeking through their application. Thank you for your attention to this important project.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Chip Curry in black ink.

Chip Curry
Maine State Senator

Handwritten signature of Stanley Paige Ziegler in black ink.

Stanley Paige Ziegler
Maine State Representative