



165 Main Street
P.O. Box 62
Damariscotta, ME 04543
207-209-4129

EDA designated economic development district

June 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

MCOG is 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 MaineDOT'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,

Mathew Eddy

Executive Director