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April 29, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Project* application to the FY25-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$760 million with MaineDOT requesting \$456 million in MPDG funds. The remaining funds will be comprised of other federal, state, and private sector lease payments.

As highlighted in the *Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap*, a port facility is a priority for unlocking Maine's opportunity in offshore wind to create good-paying jobs, spur broad economic development, and generate abundant clean electricity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize energy costs, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels consistent with the State's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait* and the Biden Administration's goal to deploy 15 Gigawatts (GW) of FOSW by 2035. The port is ideally suited to serve the nascent floating offshore wind industry for the entire East Coast and enable localized manufacturing of advanced energy technology. Additionally, the barge will be the first of its kind Jones Act compliant U.S. flagged semi-submersible barge capable of handling concrete floating offshore wind foundations.

This opportunity is critical for the people of Maine to solidify a foothold in the manufacturing and development of the floating offshore wind industry in a strong and desirable location that will have lasting beneficial impacts for generations to come. I believe this project aligns with the goals and objectives for both the State and Biden Administration. It is important to the stakeholders within the State of Maine that this opportunity be pursued with the support and alignment of efforts being leveraged at the state and federal levels.

I fully support Maine's application for these federal funds which will be critical to advancing efforts on this project in the immediate future and unlocking additional investments in clean energy generation and long-term local economic development opportunities. With the construction of the



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port and barge, I am confident Maine's leadership will contribute to growing domestic expertise and supply chain capabilities to support a robust offshore wind industry in the United States.

In summary, I am in full support of this project and respectfully request your strong consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "AS", with a long, wavy flourish extending to the right.

Alaina Scheuchzer
Vice Chair
Maine Port Authority, Board of Directors