

**Via Electronic Mail**

May 22, 2024  
Secretary Buttigieg,  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Maine DOT Dirigo Atlantic Offshore Wind Port Project –**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Northeast Clean Energy Council (“NECEC” or “Council”) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments to the U.S. Department of Transportation in strong support of funding for the Maine Department of Transportation’s (“Maine DOT”) Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Project (“Project”) application to the FY25-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (“MPDG”) Program. The Project is estimated to cost approximately \$760 million. Maine DOT is requesting \$456 million in MPDG funds and the remaining funds will come from state and private sources.

NECEC leads the just, equitable, and rapid transition to a clean energy future and a diverse climate economy. NECEC is the only organization in the Northeast that covers all of the clean energy market segments, representing the business perspectives of investors and clean energy companies across every stage of development. NECEC members span the broad spectrum of the clean energy industry, including clean transportation, energy efficiency, wind, solar, energy storage, microgrids, fuel cells, and advanced and “smart” technologies.

NECEC is dedicated to growing the clean energy economy in Maine and across the region, in pursuit of our mission to create a world-class and equitable clean energy hub in the Northeast. The Council’s 250+ members include companies based in Maine, doing business or hoping to make future investments in the state.

*The Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap* emphasizes that a port facility is essential to unlock 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 goals of deploying 30 gigawatts (“GW”) of offshore wind by 2030, 15 GW of floating offshore wind by 2035, and 110 GW of offshore wind by 2050. 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.

NECEC fully supports 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 port and barge, NECEC is confident that Maine's leadership will contribute to growing domestic expertise and supply chain capabilities to support a robust offshore wind industry in New England and the United States.

We thank you for your consideration and respectfully request your support of this application.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Tim W. Snyder*

Tim W. Snyder

VP, Public Policy & Government Affairs