

## Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Board

August 25, 2022

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

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Federal Transit Administration FY2022 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program

Dear U.S. Secretary Buttigieg:

The Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Board (MSFSAB) is pleased to express our strong support of the Maine State Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) submission for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY2022 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. Funding support for operating costs would enhance the Maine State Ferry Service's (MSFS's) ability to provide reliable ferry service that is critical to supporting the islands they serve.

The six MSFS routes provide the only public transportation link and only way to move vehicles to and from the rural island communities of Frenchboro, Islesboro, Matinicus, North Haven, Swan's Island, and Vinalhaven. These communities depend on reliable, affordable, and sustainable ferry service for access to jobs, education and services, as well as for emergency medical transport. Our organization is particularly interested in the proposal due to capacity in advising the Maine State Ferry Service and the MaineDOT on matters relating to the state run ferry system. The MSFSAB consists of one member and alternate from each island served by a state run ferry and several from the mainland primarily from each island ferry route's mainland destination. We meet regularly and have input on financial decisions made by the MaineDOT. We are encouraged to have this opportunity to apply for funding for operations which would support our island customers, who rely heavily on the MSFS for transportation to and from the mainland.

Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Board strongly supports and encourages MaineDOT's proposal for the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. This opportunity presented through FTA's Ferry Programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Consolidated Appropriations Act would help support crucial transportation service to the Maine island communities served by MSFS.

Sincerely,



Jon Emerson

Chair, Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Board