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EDA designated economic development district

May 02, 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 Midcoast Council of Government's (MCOG) 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.

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 and stabilize energy costs.. The project is 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.

The project furthers several actions within MCOG's Strategic Plan:

- The Wind Port project enhances investment in port infrastructure and the midcoast transportation network;
- The Manufacturing facility provides for further investment in the green economy in MCOG's region;
- The project supports development of new technologies in an important industry cluster; and
- Is located in a locally distressed community.

MCOG fully supports this federal funds application critical to advancing efforts on this project and unlocking additional investments in clean energy generation and local economic development opportunities. With the construction of the port and barge, we are 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, we support this project and respectfully request your strong consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Mathew H. Eddy