



March 29, 2023

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

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

It is with great pleasure that I submit this letter in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the Federal Transit Administration Low or No Emission Grant Program. MaineDOT, in partnership with seven Maine transit agencies, is seeking funding for low and no emissions buses and vans for transit service across Maine, including associated infrastructure and staff training and workforce development.

These hybrid and electric vehicles will replace existing diesel and gasoline vehicles, expanding access to clean and sustainable transportation for thousands of Maine transit riders. The supporting infrastructure includes vehicle chargers necessary for these vehicles to be placed in service, which includes vehicle chargers. Furthermore, the training and workforce development will ensure a skilled, diverse, and sustainable labor pool.

Introducing these vehicles will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating the impacts of climate change, and directly supports the goals of the state's climate action plan "Maine Won't Wait" and corresponding Clean Transportation Roadmap, which calls for continuing to decarbonize Maine's transportation sector.

I am the Director of Transportation Services for Penquis, a nonprofit Community Action program in Penobscot County Maine which is the same area the grant applicant represents. The funding from this award will make a critical difference in the region's transportation capacity. Adding hybrid and electrical vehicle capacity in this region will allow us to grow and diversify transportation operations and help move people to vital services quickly, cleanly and efficiently. Additionally, these vehicles will add much needed capacity to transport members of the community that are both eligible to ride with the Community Connectors para-transit system or Medicaid funded trips. It is not uncommon for there to be unmet need in providing this critically important transportation. The funding in this grant will greatly reduce that unmet need. We urge you and the Department to give close consideration to this applicants request for funding.

I strongly support MaineDOT's grant application for this important project. I am hopeful that you will give the project your full consideration and award the requested funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve J. Richard".

Steven J Richard  
Director of Transportation Services