



Town of Searsport, Maine

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April 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am very honored and happy to write this letter in support of the State of Maine's request for federal funding from the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. With this \$39 million funding request, the federal government can help prepare Maine ports for the future, benefit Maine and national economies, and provide good paying jobs for Mainers.

Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver for centuries. The hard-working people of Maine have made careers out of what is provided by the sea, and we have a robust maritime history that includes shipbuilding, fishing and lobstering, and three deep-water commercial seaports. Portland, Searsport, and Eastport have been the focal point of Maine's three-port-strategy since the late 1970's, and these ports have benefited greatly from planning and targeted investments.

Now more than ever, Maine needs to invest in port infrastructure. Our state's inland economy and trade with the global economy depends on well-functioning ports. Small steps have been made over the last century to move the port infrastructure forward. Some of this has come from the state and federal government and some has been generated by private industry responding to needs. We need to do better than responding to needs, we need to better position ourselves for the future needs. Our state leaders have done a great job at identifying the projects that will yield the greatest benefit for now and the future. Refrigerated container upgrades and dredging at the Port of Portland, Offshore Wind port development design and environmental work in Searsport, and the rehabilitation of the Eastport Fish Pier and extension of the Breakwater are all vital to prepare our ports for the 2030's and beyond. Our state leadership has worked hard to put forward buildable projects that provide a return on investment to benefit the people of Maine, the New England Region, and the United States.

Furthermore, this application provides an opportunity for Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating Offshore Wind port facility. Maine has significant climate and clean energy goals, and offshore wind plays a key part in helping Maine achieve them, while also keeping the state aligned with the wind energy goals of the nation. The emerging offshore wind industry depends entirely on specific port infrastructure, and Maine intends to be a leader in this sector by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

We appreciate your continued support and commitment and thank you in advance for your consideration of this application.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James S. Gillway', written in a cursive style.

James S. Gillway
Town Manager