



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

April 28, 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 pleased to write to you in strong support of the State of Maine's request for federal funding through the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. Through their application the State has requested \$39 million. This funding will help prepare Maine ports for the future, benefit Maine and national economies, and provide good paying jobs for Maine residents.

Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver for centuries. Maine has 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.

This funding will assist in modernizing Maine's three-ports. We have collaborated with local officials and private businesses to understand the highest priority projects that will yield the greatest impact Maine industry. 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. We have 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.

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.

Thank you for your consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor



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