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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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May 19, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express my support for the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD) to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program. MDOT and ETMD seek federal support to develop two sections of the Eastern Trail in York County, Maine.

The proposed project aims to construct two segments of off-road trail totaling 2.7 miles in the southern Maine communities of North Berwick, Wells, and Kennebunk. By filling identified gaps in the Eastern Trail, an important piece of active transportation infrastructure, this project will enhance access to a trail that is a crucial contributor to economic opportunity and quality of life across the region.

In this area of southern Maine, limited active transportation infrastructure hinders people's ability to safely access essential services, such as jobs, schools, and housing, particularly those without vehicles or who are unable to drive. This project will connect major employers, schools, and village centers to nearby residential areas. Furthermore, this project aligns with MaineDOT's recently developed Maine State Active Transportation Plan, which outlines the state's strategy to improve safety and increase active transportation options throughout Maine.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the Maine Department of Transportation and Eastern Trail Management District. I urge your careful consideration of their application, and ask that you please notify me, or your staff notify Trevor Hustus at (202) 224-2523, when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator