

May 15th, 2023

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a **2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant**. The application details MaineDOT’s funding need and comprehensive plan to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state via the *Recharge Maine Project* (“Project”). There are gaps in the state’s EV charging station map and additional charging stations will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”).
- Ensure locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists.
- Assist Maine in meeting its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Ensure funding received is consistent with that of other states.

The Nature Conservancy’s (TNC) top priorities, in Maine and across the world, are the interconnected aims of protecting biodiversity and tackling climate change, the latter of which requires a rapid transition to clean energy. With transportation representing the largest source of carbon dioxide emissions in Maine, vehicle electrification is a powerful strategy to advance this transition. The Project will play an important role in this shift by closing the gaps between charging locations, alleviating hesitations about making the switch to EVs and reducing “range anxiety.”

It is not enough to simply install chargers where the most people live or visit, though; centering equity in climate action is necessary for a just transition to a clean energy future. We are glad that the Project will equitably provide public charging in our communities by serving individuals who do not have charging access at home, such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings, and that it will benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels.

It is with these considerations that we are pleased to support MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine in their application for discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important Project. The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help Maine reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,



Kaitlyn Nuzzo
Director of Government Relations in Maine