



April 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, which includes vehicle chargers, will ensure that these vehicles operate reliably and efficiently for the duration of their useful lives. 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 supporting 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.

Adoption of these low and no emission transportation vehicles is in direct alignment with the goals of the state of Maine's Clean Cities coalition, Maine Clean Communities. Our mission is to advance the adoption of alternative fuels, vehicle efficiency technologies and the decarbonization of the transportation sector. One way we do this is by supporting businesses, fuel providers, vehicle fleets, state and local government agencies and others across the state to adopt advanced transportation technologies such as plug-in electric and hybrid vehicles.

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 "Sara Mills-Knapp", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Sara Mills-Knapp, Director, Maine Clean Communities