

Kate Snyder
Mayor
City of Portland
April 20, 2023



The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the City of Portland, I write in strong support for the State of Maine's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Application.

As residents of Portland, we are privileged to live, work, and play in the City by the Sea. Our rivers, estuaries, harbor and bay define the geography of our community. Water also frames our identity as a city. Our name, *Portland*, has relevance to who we are, what we do, and to what we aspire. We are a port city: and as a port city, the harbor is our chief asset.

Unfortunately, Portland Harbor is in danger. Decades of sediment build-up around our historic piers and wharves has polluted our ecological resources. In addition, commercial fishing, island ferry service, freight transportation, marine tourism, and other maritime enterprises - bricks in the foundation of our economy - have suffered from every lost foot of usable pier edge.

Our city's history of maritime enterprise remains a point of community pride; our future depends on its survival and expansion. New maritime industries are taking hold on Portland's waterfront. Aquaculture holds promise to feed a hungry world while removing carbon from the atmosphere. Ocean energy - from both wind and tides - may revolutionize the delivery of sustainable energy. Waterborne freight remains the most efficient mode of transport for large volumes of material and removes trucks from congested roadways. Without investment in the Portland Harbor, we lose access to the ocean and the benefits of these new industries.

I respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project so that we can invest in the future of our working waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Snyder".

Kate Snyder, Mayor
City of Portland, Maine