



JANET T. MILLS
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
54 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0054

LAURA A. FORTMAN
COMMISSIONER

May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's FY24 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant application, *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Planning Project*. The PIDP grant funds would support the pre-construction activities through Final Design accelerating the development of the Project.

As highlighted in the *Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap*, a port facility is a priority for unlocking Maine's opportunity in offshore wind to create good-paying jobs, spur broad economic development, and generate abundant clean electricity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize energy costs, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels consistent with the State's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*. The port is ideally suited to serve the nascent floating offshore wind industry for the entire East Coast and enable localized manufacturing of advanced energy technology.

MDOL is committed to advancing high-quality job opportunities in the offshore wind and port industries by helping employers recruit and train a talented workforce, providing workers with the skills they need to be competitive in the economy through models such as registered apprenticeship, and ensuring safe and fair workplaces for people on the job. Upon award, MDOL will support the Floating Offshore Wind Port Planning Project by:

- Collaborating with MaineDOT, training and education providers, labor unions, and other partners to strengthen the port infrastructure workforce by advancing registered apprenticeship and certified pre-apprenticeship for key occupations such as electricians, technicians, welders, and fabricators – building on the Maine Apprenticeship Program's nearly 1,000 current apprentices in clean energy and transportation occupations.
- Connecting jobseekers to employment and training opportunities in the port industry and providing them with wraparound supports through our statewide CareerCenters and local workforce partners, with an explicit focus on priority communities including women, individuals with disabilities, veterans, people of color, and the re-entry and recovery communities.

I support Maine's application for these federal funds which will be critical to advancing efforts on this project in the immediate future and unlocking additional investments for long-term local economic development opportunities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura A. Fortman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura A. Fortman
Commissioner
Maine Department of Labor