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DAN BURGESS
DIRECTOR OF GOVERNOR'S
ENERGY OFFICE

May 3, 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 strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Project* application to the FY25-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$760 million with MaineDOT requesting \$456 million in MPDG funds. The remaining funds will be comprised of state and private sources.

As highlighted in the *Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap*, a port facility is essential to unlock 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*, and the Biden Administration's goals of deploying 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind (OSW) by 2030, 15 GW of floating OSW by 2035, and 110 GW of OSW by 2050.

Port infrastructure is a major chokepoint impeding the expansion of floating OSW as a source of clean energy to the U.S. electric grid. Despite more than 35 dedicated OSW ports (fixed and floating) completed or under development over the last five years, the U.S. is facing a shortage of as many as 84 OSW port sites needed to meet national targets. OSW port infrastructure is unique in its size, complexity, and scale, and without federal investment for those projects, the dearth of port infrastructure will constrain the ability to successfully deploy OSW to meet climate, clean energy, and economic goals. The *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Project* is ideally suited to meet the unique requirements of floating offshore wind, serve the nascent floating offshore wind industry for the entire East Coast, enable domestic manufacturing of advanced energy technology, and help secure U.S. leadership in an emerging floating OSW marketplace.

We fully 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 in clean energy generation and long-term local economic development opportunities in disadvantaged communities. With the construction of the port, we are confident Maine's leadership will contribute to growing domestic expertise and supply chain capabilities to support a robust

offshore wind industry in the United States.

In summary, we are in support of this project and respectfully request your consideration of this application. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Burgess". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dan Burgess, Director
Maine Governor's Energy Office