



THE MAINE LEGISLATURE

August 11, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) funding request through the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the critical importance of the proposed project and its positive impact on the transportation infrastructure and environmental resilience of the State of Maine.

MaineDOT's application seeks funding to address the elevation of U.S. Route 1-A in Frankfort, Maine, a location that is particularly vulnerable to sea-level rise due to its proximity to the South Branch Marsh River. Currently, a portion of this roadway sits 2.5 feet below the Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT), posing a significant risk to both the infrastructure and the safety of the community. This stretch of U.S. Route 1-A also serves as a vital Hurricane Evacuation Route, making its vulnerability to flooding a pressing concern for the constituents we represent in Augusta.

We urge you to consider the profound impact that MaineDOT's proposed project can have on the transportation infrastructure, environmental resilience, and overall safety of this region of Maine. Granting MaineDOT the funding they are requesting would be a significant step towards achieving these goals and ensuring a more secure future for Maine's residents. We thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of Chip Curry in cursive.

Chip Curry
State Senator

Handwritten signature of Benjamin C. Hymes in cursive.

Benjamin C. Hymes
State Representative

Handwritten signature of Reagan Paul in cursive.

Reagan Paul
State Representative