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CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT MAINE

July 14, 2023

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the State of Maine's recently submitted application for federal funding through the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. Through their application, the State has requested \$39 million. This funding will help prepare Maine ports for the future.

Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver for centuries. Maine has a robust maritime history that includes shipbuilding, fishing and lobstering. Maine's deep water ports, including Portland, have benefited greatly from planning and targeted investment.

The funding requested through their application will assist in modernizing Maine's three ports, including Portland, and will provide an opportunity for Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating Offshore Wind port facility. Maine has significant climate and clean energy goals, and offshore wind plays a key part in helping Maine achieve them, while also keeping the state aligned with the wind energy goals of the nation. The emerging offshore wind industry depends entirely on specific port infrastructure, and Maine intends to be a leader in this sector by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

Through this project the Port of Portland will again be restored as a center for marine commerce. The application will expand economic development opportunities, expand berthing and services for commercial fishing and other working waterfront businesses, and provide significant environmental benefits. Thank you again for your time on behalf of this application. I urge your full and fair consideration, in accordance to all applicable rules and regulation.

Sincerely,

Chellie Pingree
United States Representative

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