



**PORTLAND**  
Regional Chamber  
of Commerce

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*Cape Elizabeth • Cumberland • Falmouth • Gorham • Scarborough • South Portland • Portland • Westbrook*

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,

The Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce is writing to express strong support for the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for vessels. According to a recent study, Portland Harbor generates about \$800 million of total economic output that can be tied, either directly or indirectly, to our working waterfront and the commercial and recreational activities it supports. This project in question will support many businesses in our waterfront area, thousands of jobs and much of the overall economic output of the harbor. Fishermen are a key part of this economic picture, and in Portland Harbor they number over 500 with 48 million pounds of annual landings. As sediments continue to build up in the harbor and whittle away at the already strained supply of berthing space, pier owners will have to turn away from marine industries to afford the maintenance of their properties, favoring land uses like office and retail over our iconic marine industries.

Impressive collaboration has been shown between the cities of South Portland and Portland, the Portland Harbor Commission, other government agencies including the Maine Department of Transportation, and both business and environmental organizations. Furthermore, this state of good repair project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and the project sponsors, the community at large, and private business owners are all supportive of the work and are prepared to support the project financially. This has put the project in a perfect place for success, with all necessary design and permits in hand, making this a truly shovel ready endeavor.

The Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our long-standing and successful small businesses to continue without the harbor being brought into a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on the working waterfront.

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

Sincerely,

Quincy Hentzel  
President & CEO