



August 29, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We would like to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the FY2022 Electric or Low-Emitting Ferry Pilot Program. We each have the privilege of being one of the select few in the Maine State Legislature to represent constituents who reside on one of these mid-coast or down east islands in Maine.

MaineDOT's Maine State Ferry Service (MSFS) provides the primary link for passengers, vehicles, and freight to six island communities off the coast of Maine. These six islands—Frenchboro, Islesboro, Matinicus, North Haven, Swan's Island, and Vinalhaven—are rural and residents rely on ferry service for access to services, goods, and jobs on the mainland, as well as for emergency medical transport.

The MSFS serves as the bridge to these communities and residents and visitors alike depend on reliable service. This needed funding, if awarded, would replace the aging *Margaret Chase Smith*, which provides vehicle and passenger ferry service between Lincolnville and Islesboro, Maine State Ferry System's (MSFS's) most-traveled route. As the only means of public transportation to and from Islesboro, and the only way for vehicles to travel on and off the island, the ferry provides a crucial link for island residents and visitors.

We were thrilled to see MaineDOT's plan to replace this aging vessel and even more pleased that the new vessel will be designed with electric or hybrid propulsion. This plan is in alignment with the state's electric vehicle and transportation emissions-reduction goals. It is for these reasons that we urge you to award MaineDOT's application for this important project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Curry".

Chip Curry
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicole C. Grohoski".

Nicole C. Grohoski
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Miramant", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David Miramant
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria W. Doudera", with a stylized, cursive script.

Victoria W. Doudera
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann H. Matlack", with a cursive script.

Ann H. Matlack
State Representative

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Paige Zeigler, Jr.", with a cursive script.

S. Paige Zeigler, Jr.
State Representative