

SWANS ISLAND FISHERMAN'S COOPERATIVE
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August 29, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Federal Transit Administration FY2022 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program

Dear U.S. Secretary Buttigieg:

The Swans Island Fisherman's Co-op is pleased to express our strong support of the Maine State Department of Transportation's (Maine DOT) submission for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY2022 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. Funding support for operation costs would enhance the Maine State Ferry Service's (MSFS'S) ability to provide reliable ferry service that is critical to supporting the islands they serve.

The six MSFS routes provide the only public transportation link and only way to move vehicles to and from the rural island communities of Frenchboro, Islesboro, Matinicus, North Haven, Swans Island, and Vinalhaven. These communities depend on reliable, affordable, and sustainable ferry services for access to jobs, education, and services, as well as for emergency medical transportation.

The economy of Swans Island is dependent on the lobster fishery which is in turn dependent on the Maine State Ferry Service to have bait and other supplies delivered to the island and to ship the lobsters to markets. The Swans Island Fisherman's Co-op has to ship lobsters daily during the season (July thru October) and as the largest lobster dealer and employer on Swans Island we are particularly interested in this proposal.

The Swans Island Fisherman's Co-op supports and encourages Maine DOT's proposal for the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. This opportunity presented through FTA's Ferry Programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Consolidated Appropriations Act would help support crucial transportation service to the Maine island communities served by MSFS.

Sincerely,



Kathy Clark,
Manager