



February 6, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We submit to you the following letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) applications for funding through the USDOT FY2022 Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program.

The funding assistance that MaineDOT and Maine DMR are requesting through USDOT will assist with the replacement of twenty-three road stream culverts in fifteen communities located over three strategic locations in Maine. These locations in Central, Downeast, and the Sandy River area of Western Maine all include municipalities that we represent in the Maine State Legislature.

The culverts identified for replacement through this project are undersized and impact the passage of native migratory fish and cause ongoing maintenance and repair problems for our local communities. These projects will significantly contribute to the habitat available for endangered anadromous fish species and their prey. The replacement of these twenty-three culverts will restore access to approximately forty-four total miles of habitat for the fish species native to each area, including the state and federally endangered Atlantic Salmon.

We are very pleased that MaineDOT and Maine DMR have partnered together on this effort and made these culverts a priority. We urge you to give their applications full consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell Black".

Russell Black
State Senator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig V. Hickman".

Craig V. Hickman
State Senator



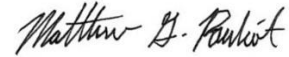
Lisa M. Keim
State Senator



Peter A. Lyford
State Senator



Marianne Moore
State Senator



Matthew Pouliot
State Senator



Cameron D. Reny
State Senator



Eloise A. Vitelli
State Senator



Richard T. Bradstreet
State Representative



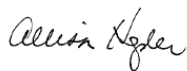
Lydia V. Crafts
State Representative



Kenneth R. Davis
State Representative



Randall C. Hall
State Representative



Alison Hepler
State Representative



Scott Landry
State Representative



Michael H. Lemelin
State Representative



Colleen M. Madigan
State Representative



Edward J. Polewarczyk
State Representative



Ronald B. Russell
State Representative