



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

February 1, 2023

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

Dear U.S. Secretary Buttigieg:

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is writing in support of the Passamaquoddy Tribe's application for funding from the Federal Highways Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Program. The projects included in this application will benefit Maine's sea-run fish species. More specifically, these projects will improve access to 265 Atlantic salmon habitat units, 7,631 acres of alewife spawning habitat, and over 40 miles of river habitat for Maine's sea-run fish.

MaineDOT assisted in selecting projects for this application, including evaluating structures that were close to MaineDOT structures already in our workplan. Throughout the design and execution of this project, MaineDOT will provide technical support on environmental permitting, contractual, and design challenges that may come up during the process. Three of the four projects included in this application will span over 20' and may transition to MaineDOT ownership. We are committed to ensuring these projects meet the appropriate standards and provide safe passage for the traveling public in addition to anadromous fish resources.

The MaineDOT fully supports the Passamaquoddy Tribe's efforts to address long-standing fish passage issues in Downeast Maine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Van Note".

Bruce A. Van Note
Commissioner