

# TOWN OF BUCKSPORT, MAINE

Incorporated June 25, 1792



OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

P.O. Drawer X  
Bucksport, Maine 04416

Phone (207) 469-7368  
Fax (207) 469-7369

February 1, 2023

Rick Murray  
Agreement Officer  
Office of Acquisition and Grants Management  
Federal Highway Administration  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE., Mailstop E62-204  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Mr. Murray,

I am writing in support of the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Maine Department of Marine Resources (MDMR) project entitled "MaineDOT Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Program" as a municipal partner in the project, which is seeking funding from the Federal Highway Administration through the Culvert Aquatic Organism Passage Opportunity. Bucksport supports the goal of this project in coastal Maine to improve access to key habitat for sea-run fish, while improving aging and insufficient culvert infrastructure that is currently a burden to our municipal budget. We support the collaborative approach MDOT is taking to improve access to habitat for endangered and climate resilient fish stocks and advance climate resilience strategies outlined in Maine Won't Wait, Maine's 4-year climate action plan through the replacement of aging and undersized culverts that currently are barriers to endangered fish and pose recurring problems, such as flood risk and road closure, to our town.

Bucksport is committing to participate in the project alongside the State of Maine to replace two culverts (MSHV # 1464 & 1465) on Jacob Buck Pond Rd. and Bucks Mill Rd. in Bucksport. These culverts are severely undersized for the stream and their removal will allow upstream passage of anadromous species. The estimated cost to complete these projects is \$1,080,000 (with the Bucks Mill Rd. culvert almost fully funded already). Bucksport pledges to cover the 20% non-federal match requirement from a Maine DEP grant (\$125,000) and town funding.

The coordination that the State of Maine is providing around project design and implementation in combination with reducing the financial burden to the town with federal grant dollars is what is needed to make this project move forward. We request that the Federal Highway Administration fund the MDOT proposal which will provide access to 182 acres of alewife spawning habitat, 98 Atlantic salmon habitat units, and 5.7 miles of stream habitat for other anadromous fish species.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Lyra", written over the printed name "Town Manager".

Town Manager