



June 7, 2023

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt:

Please accept this letter of support for our joint application with the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) for a **2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant**. The application details MaineDOT’s funding need and comprehensive plan to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state via the *Recharge Maine Project* (“Project”). The additional charging stations funded by this grant will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along federally designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”);
- Ensure locations beyond AFCs, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists;
- Develop critical infrastructure needed for Maine to meet its carbon reduction targets of 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045;
- Ensure that Maine receives a level of BIL funding for EV infrastructure consistent with other states.

In partnership with MaineDOT, Efficiency Maine has been administering funding for public EV charging stations since 2018, when the state first received funding from the Volkswagen settlement. To date, the funding has supported 186 charging ports at 65 locations throughout the state, with another 142 ports currently under construction at 55 locations.

The Project will equitably provide public charging in our communities, serving individuals who cannot easily access charging at home, such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings. The Project will benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in and/or serve neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce “range anxiety” by closing gaps between charging locations which will alleviate hesitation about making the switch to EVs. We are concerned that Maine’s \$14 billion tourism industry will suffer if the state is unable to make an adequate number of safe and convenient EV chargers available to present and future EV drivers.

The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help the state reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community – residents and tourists – can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Stoddard".

Michael Stoddard
Executive Director