



**Jared Golden**  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District of Maine

September 12, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am pleased to express my strong support for the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the 2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program. MaineDOT's proposed project, "Driving Maine's Rural Economy Through Freight Rail Efficiency," holds promise for the State of Maine and its residents.

The department's project will address critical infrastructure needs along the Eastern Maine Railway (EMR) line, spanning 130 miles across northern and eastern Maine. By modernizing the rail infrastructure, including rail lines, crossties, and turnouts, this initiative aims to improve safety and reliability for freight transportation in the region. These improvements are essential for enhancing the efficiency of freight movement, which is crucial for Maine's economy.

One key aspect of the project includes the rehabilitation of a section of track in the rural town of Millinocket, Maine that is currently dormant. This rehabilitation effort will not only benefit local businesses but also has the potential to attract new businesses to the area, leading to economic growth and job creation in a region that has faced economic challenges.

I fully endorse MaineDOT's project and their request for funding assistance from USDOT. This project aligns with the goals of the CRISI grant program and represents a significant opportunity to drive economic development in rural Maine while improving transportation infrastructure. I urge you to consider MaineDOT's application favorably and grant them the funding they are seeking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared F. Golden".

Jared F. Golden  
Member of Congress