



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

August 17, 2023

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 send you this letter in strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and NBM Railways' grant application for funding through the 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highways Projects (INFRA) program. The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to administer needed improvements to the Eastern Maine Railway's (EMR) line through Maine via the *Eastern Maine Railway Freight Resiliency and Efficiency Project*.

The proposed project consists of replacing worn-out and obsolete rail, crossties and turnouts with modern and reliable rail infrastructure along 130 miles of the rail line. The project will not only connect the state's forest products industry to export markets, but also support the creation of family-wage jobs in rural communities while reducing transportation costs.

This rail line is the only safe and efficient connection of Maine's forest products to Port Saint John, New Brunswick, on the Atlantic Ocean. The port connects a variety of manufactured products in Maine and throughout New England to global markets. The project will also greatly improve rural road safety by reducing truck traffic.

I respectfully request that you please consider funding this important project fully through the INFRA program. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or MaineDOT Commissioner Bruce Van Note.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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