

November 7, 2024

Commissioner Bruce A. Van Note Maine Department of Transportation 16 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333-0016

The Friends of Taunton Bay are pleased to write this letter in support of the Schoodic Scenic Byway Discovery and Recreation Hub grant application. Gordon's Wharf, the home of Friends of Taunton Bay, is a current Kid's Quest site. We recognize and appreciate the value of our connection to the Schoodic Scenic Byway on a daily basis.

We are very impressed with the inclusive and comprehensive approach to development of the gateway to the Schoodic Scenic Byway. The multi-faceted approach truly creates a welcoming gathering place for visitors and residents of all ages. Improved parking and ADA accessibility around the site will be a great benefit to all who visit. Adding a Welcome Center, accessible ADA bathroom, seating, shade, bike station, car-charging and other improvements is brilliant. A new Kid's Quest site at the Recreation Hub is an added plus!

We recognize the value of tourism. We also recognize the value of information, education and healthy lifestyles. This project is a commitment to putting our best foot forward for our visitors, residents, businesses and Downeast communities. We hope you will fund this project.

Sincerely,

**Executive Committee** Friends of Taunton Bay friendsoftauntonbay.org