April 21, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigleg,

We strongly support the Portland Harbor Dredge and CAD Cell Project.

As the owner / operator of a 14-acre marina containing 150-seasonal slips and hundreds of feet of dedicated transient vessel dockage, we rely, and our customers rely on the ability to navigate Portland Harbor and our submerged lands safely and efficiently. The economic activity and value of the Portland and South Portland working waterfronts continue to be threatened by the lack of adequate berthing for vessels. Due to over seven decades of environmental contamination in the harbor, it is economically infeasible for any one business to complete the necessary dredging to maintain the near- and long-term viability of our critical berthing space.

The cities, along with the Portland Harbor Commission and the Maine Department of Transportation, have been working hand in hand with the affected communities to complete this project for a number of years. It is our plan to invest in the refurbishment and enhancement of our existing infrastructure to provide a critical amenity for local and transient berthing of vessels in our marina, and dredge maintenance of the harbor is critical to ensuring that we can continue to make these investments. The improvements our business will make as a result of the completion of this project will not only improve how our marina accommodates local and transient vessels but will increase the value of adjacent landside properties.

This project has obtained approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the project sponsors, the community at large, and we, a private business owner, are all supportive of the work and prepared make additional financial investment in our business. All but this last tranche of funding has been allocated, and only needs the federal match for this essential project to take place.

Portland Harbor is a critical economic hub for the State of Maine and greater New England. But importantly, it is impossible for our successful small business to continue without it being in a state of good repair. We respectfully request that you favorably consider and approve this project that is critical to the men, women, and families who rely on Portland's waterfront.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

David Senus, Director of Planning & Design

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