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Administrative Secretary:
Carla J. R. Manchester

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

April 18, 2023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is written in strong support of the State of Maine's request for federal funding from the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. With this \$39 million funding request, the federal government can help prepare Maine ports for the future.

Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver for centuries. The people of Maine have made careers out of what is provided by the sea. Maine has a robust maritime history that includes shipbuilding, fishing and lobstering, and three deep-water commercial seaports. Portland, Searsport, and Eastport have been the focal point of Maine's three-port-strategy since the late 1970's, and these ports have benefited greatly from planning and targeted investments.

We have collaborated with local officials and private businesses to understand the highest priority projects that will yield the greatest impact Maine industry. Refrigerated container upgrades and dredging at the Port of Portland, Offshore Wind port development design and environmental work in Searsport, and the rehabilitation of the Eastport Fish Pier and extension of the Breakwater are all vital to prepare our ports for the 2030's and beyond.

This funding would provide an opportunity for Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating Offshore Wind port facility. The emerging offshore wind industry depends entirely on specific port infrastructure, and Maine intends to be a leader in this sector by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

Sincerely,



Betsy Fitzgerald, County Manager

“The Sunrise County – where the sun first shines!”