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May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's FY24 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant application, *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Planning Project*. The PIDP grant funds would support the pre-construction activities through Final Design accelerating the development of the Project.

As highlighted in the *Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap*, a port facility is a priority for unlocking Maine's opportunity in offshore wind to create good-paying jobs, spur broad economic development, and generate abundant clean electricity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize energy costs, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels consistent with the State's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait* and the Biden Administration's goal to deploy 15 Gigawatts (GW) of FOSW by 2035. The port is ideally suited to serve the nascent floating offshore wind industry for the entire East Coast and enable localized manufacturing of advanced energy technology. Additionally, the barge will be the first of its kind Jones Act compliant, U.S. flagged, semi-submersible barge capable of handling concrete floating offshore wind foundations.

This request for funding to support the planning and permitting process of the *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Planning Project* is a critical step in advancing Maine's commitment to establishing a premiere manufacturing location supporting the demand for sustainable energy options. Receiving an award for this funding through this PIDP Grant request is critical for allowing the Maine Port Authority and Maine Department of Transportation to take the critical steps necessary for design completion and permitting to move the project forward and achieve success.

I fully support Maine's application for these federal funds which will be critical to advancing efforts on this project in the immediate future and unlocking additional investments for long-term local economic development opportunities. With the construction of the port, I am confident Maine's leadership will contribute to growing domestic expertise and supply chain capabilities to

support a robust offshore wind industry in the United States.

I am in full support of this project and respectfully request your strong consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Alaina Scheuchzer  
Vice Chair  
Maine Port Authority, Board of Directors