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HELLIE PINGREE
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April 25, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my support for the recently submitted Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for discretionary funding to develop two segments of the Eastern Trail in York County, Maine.

The proposed project aims to construct two segments of off-road trail totaling 2.7 miles in the Southern Maine communities of North Berwick, Wells, and Kennebunk. By filling identified gaps in the Eastern Trail, an important piece of active transportation infrastructure, this project will enhance access to a trail that has already proved to be a crucial contributor to economic opportunity and quality of life in Southern Maine.

In this region, limited active transportation infrastructure hinders people's ability to safely access essential services, such as jobs, schools, and housing, particularly those without vehicles or who are unable to drive. This project will connect major employers, schools, and village centers to nearby residential areas. Furthermore, this project aligns with MaineDOT's recently developed Maine State Active Transportation Plan, which outlines the state's strategy to improve safety and increase active transportation options throughout Maine.

I urge you to give their application your full and fair consideration, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Corrinne Latti (202-225-6116) in my office should you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

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