



February 8, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's and the Town of Windham's grant application for a 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity ("RAISE") Grant. The application outlines MaineDOT's important plans to significantly improve North Windham, Maine via the *North Windham Moves: Regional Mobility - Local Access Project* ("Project").

The Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce (SLRCC), representing over 300 businesses in our 8 towns, works to promote sustainable and appropriate economic development throughout our region. The SLRCC has been working with the Town of Windham in support of the infrastructure improvements necessary to transition the North Windham Commercial District into a dynamic mixed-use downtown and as it grows in its role as the service center for the Sebago Lakes Region. The planned Project will provide opportunities for business expansion, development, as well as new light industry, hotel, and housing development in the downtown.

The Sebago Lakes Region has a tourism and hospitality driven economy. The over 500,000 visitors each year come to the region for its natural beauty and access to its pristine lakes and ponds. Many of those visitors join with the 65,000 residents in the Windham Trade Area in traveling to, and through the North Windham Commercial District to visit shops, go to restaurants, financial services, and medical appointments, or simply to commute to work. The SLRCC is aware of the current stresses on our region's transportation network, and we advocate for both safety and efficiency improvements to the region's transportation system. This Project will improve the busy North Windham US Route 302 corridor by implementing numerous safety and mobility improvements and by adding the necessary active and vehicle transportation infrastructure to enable Windham to grow in its service center role.

The Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the MaineDOT and the Town of Windham in seeking assistance from USDOT for this very important Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robin J. Mullins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robin J. Mullins  
President/CEO  
Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce