



Washington County Community College

Calais, Maine

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February 16, 2024

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

Re: Support for the Maine Department of Transportation's application to the FY24 Federal Transit Administration's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of Washington County Community College, I am writing to encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to fund Maine DOT's application to the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant program to acquire electric buses, plus charging stations and supporting infrastructure, for Downeast Transportation.

Located in Washington County, WCCC provides valuable workforce and post-secondary training options for the region which includes the Downeast Transportation service area. We are happy to support them in their endeavors to reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gases in line with the Maine Climate Action Plan by acquiring electric buses which will also play a critical role in making Downeast communities a leader in climate action.

We are excited to partner with Downeast Transportation regarding workforce training needs as these plans roll out. The work is critical to the region's transportation infrastructure, and therefore we strongly support Maine DOT's application to the RAISE grant program and encourage you to fund this high impact proposal.

Sincerely,

Nichole Sawyer
Dean of Workforce Development and Community Engagement
Washington County Community College
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