



JANET T. MILLS  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
INLAND FISHERIES & WILDLIFE  
353 WATER STREET  
41 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA ME 04333-0041



JUDITH CAMUSO  
COMMISSIONER

Bruce A. Van Note  
Commissioner  
Maine Department of Transportation  
16 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04330

RE: Support Letter for Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) Application to the USDOT Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

The Beginning with Habitat Program within the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is writing in support of MaineDOT's funding request to the Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program for replacements of two road stream culverts in Caribou Maine. These crossings are severely undersized and are located in areas with documented high wildlife-vehicle collisions (WVC). The crossings are also in structural need of repair.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has worked with Maine DOT and many other partners on terrestrial animal connectivity and safety issues regarding large animal collisions, and for the passage of at-risk species. Prestile Brook has been identified by biologists within the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife as an important stream for brook trout conservation, identified as a species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Maine Wildlife Action Plan. These two crossing structures, in addition to improving road safety, will improve passage for brook trout on Prestile Brook.

The Beginning with Habitat Program is committed to being a strong partner to assist MaineDOT through grant implementation, especially with the outreach components of this grant. Beginning with Habitat will work with town officials and adjacent landowners to implement conservation practices that will enhance the conservation value of an improved wildlife crossing. Additionally, Beginning with Habitat will coordinate activities with Maine Big Night, a non-profit conservation partner that conducts community science and outreach to municipalities on important sites for amphibian migrations. If awarded, the Beginning with Habitat program and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife are committed to seeing these two projects through to successful implementation.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is in full support of MaineDOT's efforts to reduce WVCs and increase driver safety. These efforts also provide habitat connections for important wildlife species.

Sincerely,

Justin Schlawin

Program Coordinator | Beginning with Habitat | Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
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