



**Northern
Maine
Development
Commission**

July 12, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Northern Maine Development Commission (NMDC) is pleased to provide this letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) \$8 million application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2022-2023 Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program to help fund the Caribou Wildlife and Aquatic Habitat Crossing Grant project. MaineDOT is requesting these funds to address significant standing water issues after weather events and safety issues associated with large animal crossings.

Caribou is home to large populations of moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, and other small animals and is also a transportation hub in the central Aroostook region. Improving safety for the traveling public and reducing the number of animal/vehicle crashes is of utmost importance. We hope that the U.S. Department of Transportation looks favorably upon MaineDOT's request.

Sincerely,

Robert P. Clark
Executive Director



Equal Opportunity Lender/Agency

www.nmdc.org

11 West Presque Isle Rd., PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736
Voice: (207) 498-8736, Fax: 1-866-493-1388, TTY: (207) 493-5856