



May 8, 2023

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

Please accept this letter of strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a **2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant**. The application details MaineDOT’s funding need and comprehensive plan to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state via the *Recharge Maine Project* (“Project”). There are gaps in the state’s EV charging station map and additional charging stations will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along Federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”).
- Ensure locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists.
- Assist Maine in meeting its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Ensure funding received is consistent with that of other states.

The Project will equitably provide public charging in our community, serving individuals who do not have access to it at home such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings. The Project will benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce ‘range anxiety’ by closing gaps between charging locations which will alleviate hesitation about making the switch to EVs. We are deeply concerned that Maine’s \$14 billion tourism industry will suffer if the state is unable to make an adequate number of safe and convenient EV chargers available to tourists.

It is especially concerning that Lewiston, the second-largest city in Maine, currently has no public EV charging stations. To address this issue and promote equity and inclusivity, it is imperative to prioritize investment in EV charging infrastructure throughout the city, specifically targeting diverse and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. By doing so, we demonstrate a commitment to environmental justice and help bridge the gap in access to clean transportation options. This proactive approach not only supports Lewiston's residents, but also contributes to Maine's ambitious climate objectives, fostering a sustainable and equitable future for the entire community.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine are seeking discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important Project. The Pine Tree State was an early adopter of EVs and set rigorous but attainable climate improvement goals long ago. We hope USDOT is able to help the state reach these goals by ensuring everyone in our community – residents and tourists – can easily and equitably access EV charging stations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Travis Heynen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Travis Heynen
Deputy Executive Director