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United States Senate
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June 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in strong support of the State of Maine's recently submitted application for federal funding through the *2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Grant Program*. Through their application, the State has requested \$39 million. This funding is critical to preparing Maine's ports for the future.

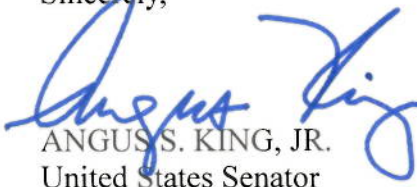
Maine's port industry and marine transportation system have been a significant economic driver for centuries. Maine has a robust maritime history that includes shipbuilding, fishing and lobstering. Maine's three deep-water commercial seaports, Portland, Searsport, and Eastport have been the focal point of Maine's three-port-strategy since the late 1970's, and these ports have benefited greatly from planning and targeted investments.

The funding requested by the State of Maine will assist in modernizing Maine's three ports, increasing economic activity benefiting the entire state, and will provide an opportunity for Maine to take a major step in its path towards developing a floating offshore wind port facility. Maine has significant climate and clean energy goals, and offshore wind plays a key part in helping Maine achieve them, while also enabling the state to contribute to the wind energy goals of the nation. The emerging offshore wind industry depends entirely on specific port infrastructure, and Maine intends to be a leader in this sector by developing the largest dedicated floating offshore wind port facility on the US East Coast.

Additionally, this grant would expand operational capacity in Portland which has seen a significant increase in container traffic at the same time that siltation has become an increasing problem reducing berthing capacity. Eastport would also benefit with increased berthing and mooring conditions in the harbor due to an extension of the breakwater.

Thank you for your consideration of the State of Maine's application to improve Maine's ports and strengthen the future of Maine's economy. I urge your careful review of their proposal, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,


ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

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