



Town of Damariscotta
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Andrew Dorr
Town Manager

August 19, 2024

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

RE: Maine Department of Transportation's application to fund the *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* under the FY 2024-2025 Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's ("MaineDOT") grant application for the Federal Highway Administration's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* ("Project")—supported by project partner Efficiency Maine Trust ("Efficiency Maine")—aims to deploy electric vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout Maine, particularly in areas facing climate change-related resiliency challenges.

Through the Project, MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will install 64 DC Fast Charger ports across 10 communities and at 6 hospitals. The locations—primarily near the State's numerous peninsulas and along flood-prone rivers—have increasingly faced flooding and prolonged power outages due to severe weather. Other locations support affected communities during evacuations from such events.

The Project will:

- Improve charger availability during widespread power outages;
- Ensure communities statewide, including disadvantaged and rural areas, have equitable access to charging infrastructure; and
- Help Maine meet its goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

Our community is conveniently located in the mid-coast, within 100 miles of popular tourist destinations like Bar Harbor and various ski areas. We are also a place that is both a bedroom community close to employment centers like Portland and Augusta and an employment destination with the county's top employer located here, Maine Health Miles Campus. Expanding EV chargers is something that our community supports and welcomes as it relates to attracting visitors or serving residents better. We also support this effort as a Maine Community Resilience Partner, our community is committed to helping the state meet its climate reduction goals.

By expanding EV infrastructure, residents and Maine's many visitors will feel more confident about adopting EVs and the availability of power during extreme weather events. The

widespread adoption of EVs is critical to reducing carbon emissions and protecting the State's natural resources from climate-related events. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to the Chargers to Promote Resilience Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrew Dorr". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Dorr
Town Manager