



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 applications to fund the *Delivering the Charge: A Recharge Maine Corridor Project* and *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:

On behalf of the Efficiency Maine Trust (Efficiency Maine), please accept this letter of strong support for the joint applications of the Maine Department of Transportation ("MaineDOT") under the FY 2024-2025 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program. The applications outline Maine's plans to expand access to electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure along Alternative Fuel Corridors (AFCs) and in areas facing climate change-related resiliency challenges.

Efficiency Maine is an independent, quasi-state agency created by the Maine Legislature to administer market-based energy efficiency programs throughout the state. As part of its portfolio, Efficiency Maine operates beneficial electrification programs that are considered among the most successful in the country. Since 2018, Efficiency Maine has partnered with the Maine DOT to build out a network of EV charging infrastructure supporting Maine's transition to electric vehicles.

Through the Corridor Project -- *Delivering the Charge: A Recharge Maine Corridor Project* -- MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will work together to install 80 DC Fast Charger ports for light-, medium-, and heavy-duty EVs across 20 strategic locations on Maine's most heavily travelled corridors. The new chargers will supplement the existing and growing network of public and private chargers and help complete the State's AFC buildout.

Through the Community Project -- *Chargers to Promote Resilience: A Recharge Maine Community Project* -- MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine will install 64 DC Fast Charger ports across 10 communities and at 6 hospitals. The locations -- to be strategically placed 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.

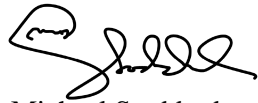
In alignment with the *Maine Plan for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Deployment*, these Projects will:

- Reduce EV range anxiety for residents and Maine's many visitors along Federally designated AFCs;
- Strengthen Maine's economy by reducing drivers' fuel costs and ensuring charging ease for visitors;
- Improve charger availability during widespread power outages;

- Ensure communities statewide, including disadvantaged and rural areas, have equitable access to charging infrastructure;
- Advance Maine’s progress toward reducing harmful emissions from vehicles; and
- Help Maine meet its overarching goals to decrease greenhouse gas emissions 45 percent by 2030, 80 percent by 2050, and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

By expanding EV infrastructure, local residents, businesses, and the many visitors who vacation in Maine will feel more confident about adopting EVs. Maine is “all in” and leading the nation in several key elements of electrification, including with its successful heat pump programs, and we intend to show similar leadership with EVs and EV charging. In light of these considerations, we respectfully request the Federal Highway Administration give favorable consideration to the *Chargers to Promote Resilience Project* and *Delivering the Charge Project*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Stoddard", written over a white rectangular area.

Michael Stoddard
Executive Director