



3 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

November 28, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are pleased to send you the following letter in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements ("CRISI") Grant. The *Maine Woods to Water Rail Connection Project* would invest money in an area of Maine that has been economically disadvantaged since the closure of the Great Northern Paper Mill in Millinocket in 2014. We are thrilled to see new life being generated at the old Great Northern Paper Mill location with the addition of a new sustainable industrial park. *One North* industrial park will help attract much needed family-wage jobs back to the region.

MaineDOT's project will rehabilitate existing dormant track and construct a loop track that will serve *One North* and its occupants. These businesses require rail service to connect their product to global markets. These investments are enticing new businesses to locate in the area. One such company, Highland Carbon Solutions LLC, a sustainable wood pellet manufacturer, requires reliable rail service to ship their product to Searsport on Maine's Atlantic coast for global distribution. MaineDOT's project will improve capacity and reliability in the rail corridor between Millinocket and Searsport and additionally will make improvements to the rail infrastructure at Mack Point terminal.

We fully support MaineDOT's application for federal discretionary funding and the *Maine Woods to Water Rail Connection Project*. Without rail service, the largest employer to locate to the region in decades will be unable to access the global market, therefore jeopardizing their success and longevity in the area. We respectfully request that USDOT and the FRA give favorable consideration to MaineDOT's application.

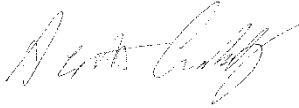
Respectfully,



James F. Dill  
State Senator



Chip Curry  
State Senator



Scott W. Cuddy  
State Representative