

**TOWN OF ISLESBORO**  
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August 29, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Federal Transit Administration FY2022 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program

Dear U.S. Secretary Buttigieg:

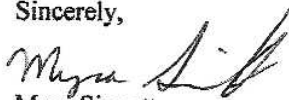
The Islesboro Energy Committee is pleased to express our strong support of the Maine State Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) submission for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) FY2022 Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. Funding support for operating costs would enhance the Maine State Ferry Service's (MSFS's) ability to provide reliable ferry service that is critical to supporting the islands they serve.

The six MSFS routes provide the only public transportation link and only way to move vehicles to and from the rural island communities of Frenchboro, Islesboro, Matinicus, North Haven, Swan's Island, and Vinalhaven. It's a long swim to the mainland.

Our community depends on reliable, affordable, and sustainable ferry service for access to jobs, education and services, as well as for emergency medical transport. The Islesboro Energy Committee is particularly interested in the proposal due to plans for an electric ferry, for which we have advocated, and from experiencing the disruptions to daily life here on Islesboro this summer due to the old, unreliable ferries currently in service.

The Islesboro Energy Committee enthusiastically supports and encourages MaineDOT's proposal for the Ferry Service for Rural Communities Program. This opportunity presented through FTA's Ferry Programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Consolidated Appropriations Act would help support crucial transportation service to the Maine island communities served by MSFS. We thank you for this program.

Sincerely,



Myra Sinnott  
Chair, Islesboro Energy Committee