

TOWN OF SWAN'S ISLAND

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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 Select Board for the Town of Swan's Island are pleased to express their 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 commerce to and from the rural island communities of Frenchboro, Islesboro, Matinicus, North Haven, Swan's Island, and Vinalhaven. These communities depend on reliable, affordable, and sustainable ferry service for access to jobs, education and services, as well as for emergency medical transport. The Town of Swan's Island is a lobster fishery community that relies daily on shipping of product and receiving of necessary supplies. Our High School students are transported daily to Bar Harbor for their secondary education on the mainland.

The Town of Swan's Island 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.

Sincerely,



Myron A. Sprague, Jr.
Select Board Chairman