



Jared Golden
Congress of the United States
2nd District of Maine

October 12, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I submit this letter to you in strong support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the NBM Railways for funding through the 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight and Highway Projects (INFRA) Program.

Through their application, MaineDOT is requesting \$46.5 million in grant funding to improve rail lines in eastern and central Maine along Eastern Maine Railway's mainline. This section of rail operates from Brownville Junction, Maine (in the central part of the state) to Vanceboro, Maine, and the Canadian border, continuing into Atlantic Canada and the Port of Saint John. This segment of rail is the state's only east-west rail line linking Maine and the New England Region to New Brunswick, Canada. MaineDOT's project also proposes improvements to the mainline operating north from Brownville Junction northeast to Millinocket, Maine.

MaineDOT's project will replace antiquated rail infrastructure, crossties, and turnouts with modern, dependable alternatives along a stretch of 130 miles of rail line. This project will establish vital connections between Maine's forest products industry and international markets. This rail line stands as the sole secure and efficient conduit linking Maine's forest products to Port Saint John in New Brunswick, Canada. Port Saint John plays a pivotal role in facilitating the export of a diverse range of manufactured goods from Maine and the broader New England region to global markets.

This proposed project is critical to ensuring that Maine's freight rail infrastructure remains in good working order, supporting Maine industry. Thank you for your time on behalf of MaineDOT. We urge your full and fair consideration of their application, in accordance with all rules and regulations. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Barbara Hayslett at 207-492-6009.

Sincerely,

Jared F. Golden
Member of Congress