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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 3, 2023

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

Dear Mr. Secretary,

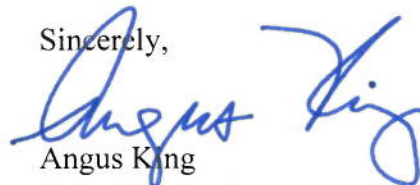
I write today in strong support of the Rural Surface Transportation Grant application recently submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Through their application, MaineDOT is seeking \$27.6 million in discretionary grant funding to facilitate a rehabilitation project valued at nearly \$38 million.

MaineDOT's project, the *Northern Maine U.S. Route 1 Road Improvement Project*, is a crucial endeavor aimed at enhancing U.S. Route 1 in Frenchville, Maine, a community located within Aroostook County, Maine's most expansive and rural county. This initiative addresses the pressing need to repair two substandard sections of Route 1, totaling 10.4 miles. Over the past quarter-century, a significant portion of Route 1 within Aroostook County has undergone comprehensive modernization. However, there remain four unfinished sections, and this project seeks to complete two of those remaining segments.

U.S. Route 1 plays a pivotal role in the lives of northern Maine residents, serving as a vital link to employment, healthcare, and essential goods. Its unique positioning along the U.S.-Canadian border connects families split between Frenchville and Canada, and it also serves as a primary artery for commerce and exporting Maine products. The proposed project is essential to ensuring that the people of Frenchville and surrounding communities maintain consistent access to the services they depend on and will enhance the economic vitality of northern Maine.

I respectfully urge you to give every appropriate consideration for full funding of this project through the Rural Transportation program, in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions regarding MaineDOT's project and please notify Adam Lachman in my office (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Angus King
United States Senator

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