



SIERRA CLUB

MAINE CHAPTER

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17 May 2023

The Honorable Shailen Bhatt, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bhatt,

The Sierra Club submits this letter in strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation (“MaineDOT”) and Efficiency Maine application for a **2023 U.S. Department of Transportation Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (“CFI”) Discretionary Grant**.

Their application provides a critical funding need and comprehensive plan to install electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the state via the *Recharge Maine Project* (“Project”). Currently, there are gaps in the state’s EV charging station map and additional charging stations provided for through this grant will:

- Help MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine meet EV charging requirements along federally-designated Alternative Fuel Corridors (“AFCs”).
- Ensure locations beyond fuel corridors, including disadvantaged communities, have charging infrastructure to serve residents and tourists.
- Provide equitable access to rural areas through collaboration with Regional Service Centers.
- Accelerate our greenhouse gas emissions mandate (in our largest emitting sector) of reducing emissions 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 – and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.
- Ensure funding received is consistent with that of other states.

Sierra Club has been prioritizing EV charging expansion in our rural areas to ensure equity as we rapidly transition our transportation sector to electric vehicles, supporting Efficiency Maine’s on-going effort. This proposed Project will further the work, equitably providing public charging in our communities, serving individuals who do not have charging access at home such as those living in apartments and other multi-unit dwellings. The Project will further benefit disadvantaged communities by ensuring chargers are located in neighborhoods of all income levels. It will greatly reduce “range anxiety” by closing gaps between charging locations, which will alleviate hesitation about making the switch to EVs: the biggest impediment we hear from our members and supporters. Additionally, this Project will help protect the \$14 billion tourism industry in Maine, which many livelihoods depend on.

We are pleased that MaineDOT and Efficiency Maine are seeking discretionary funding from USDOT for this very important Project. This funding would provide critical support for our ambitious “Maine Won’t Wait” Climate Action Plan, and ensure we transition from our largest source of greenhouse gas emissions (transportation) in a way that benefits all Mainers. We hope USDOT is able to help the state reach these goals by providing the necessary funds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Cannon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matt" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Cannon".

Matt Cannon
State Conservation & Energy Director
Sierra Club Maine