

Matinicus Isle Plantation

P.O. Box 198 17 South Road
Matinicus Island, Maine 04851
(207) 366-3980

August 25, 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 community of Matinicus Isle 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. These communities depend on reliable, affordable, and sustainable ferry service for access to jobs, education and services, as well as for emergency medical transport. We are particularly interested in the proposal due to our especially remote location (Matinicus Island is roughly 20 miles from the mainland,) the efforts of our resident working families to keep this offshore community viable, our ever-increasing need for materials carried by truck (such as building supplies, propane, heating oil, and the proper disposal of solid waste,) and the rising costs associated with all forms of transportation over water.


Matinicus 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,

George Tarkleson


Administrative Assistant to the Board of Assessors, Matinicus Isle Plantation
Municipal Treasurer and Tax Collector

Eva Murray


Matinicus Island Representative, Maine State Ferry Service Advisory Board
Municipal Clerk