

May 6, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,


I am writing on behalf of the Environmental League of Massachusetts, founder of the over-100-member New England for Offshore Wind coalition, to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) *Dirigo Atlantic Floating Offshore Wind Port Project* application to the FY25-26 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG) Program. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$760 million with MaineDOT requesting \$456 million in MPDG funds. The remaining funds will be comprised of other federal, state, and private sector lease payments.

As highlighted in the *Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap*, a port facility is a priority for unlocking Maine's opportunity in offshore wind to create good-paying jobs, spur broad economic development, and generate abundant clean electricity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, stabilize energy costs, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels consistent with the State's climate action plan, *Maine Won't Wait*, and the Biden Administration's goal to deploy 15 Gigawatts (GW) of floating offshore wind by 2035. The port is ideally suited to serve the nascent floating offshore wind industry for the entire East Coast and enable localized manufacturing of advanced energy technology. Additionally, the barge will be the first-of-its-kind Jones Act-compliant U.S.-flagged semi-submersible barge capable of handling concrete floating offshore wind foundations.

We fully support Maine's application for these federal funds, which will be critical to advancing efforts on this project in the immediate future and unlocking additional investments in clean energy generation and long-term local economic development opportunities. With the construction of the port and barge, we are confident Maine's leadership will contribute to growing domestic expertise and supply chain capabilities to support a robust offshore wind industry in New England and the United States.

In summary, we are in full support of this project and respectfully request your strong consideration of this application.

Sincerely,



Kelt Wilska
Offshore Wind Director
Environmental League of Massachusetts