



# Town of Searsport, Maine

P. O. Box 499

Searsport, Maine 04974

Phone 548-6372 • Fax 548-2305

May 2, 2024

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

We are writing to express our conditional 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 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 FOSW 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.

Our board has supported the concept of building a floating offshore wind facility in Maine from the beginning and have followed the process without interfering with the State's final decision on its location. We continue to support the development of Floating Offshore Wind and await the final permitted decision of its location through all Federal permitting including the NEPA permitting process. Final siting may impact our support of the grant application and we reserve the right to amend our support letter. We also acknowledge that it is critical to our community that a fair community benefits agreement be negotiated with our citizens to ensure that impacts from this development be mitigated to protect our quality of life.

We 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 the United States.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Norman", written in a cursive style.

Doug Norman, Chair