

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in support of the Greater Portland Transit District's (GPTD) application to the Federal Transit Administration's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. If awarded, GPTD seeks to replace two 2004 35-foot buses.

GPTD has made a series of successful improvements over the last several years that have increased the reach, availability, and convenience of public transit in southern Maine. These improvements have pushed annual boardings to 2.1 million in 2019, an 8 percent increase from 2018 and a 45 percent increase from 2013. With many new riders coming from all sectors of the community, the growing region needs replacement buses with larger passenger capacity and improved reliability and accessibility.

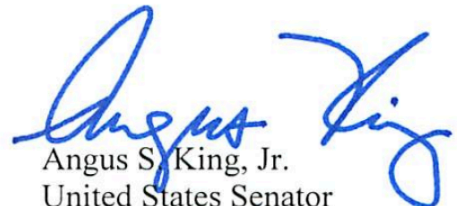
GPTD is requesting \$821,526 to fund the purchase of two 2020 40-foot low floor, ramp-equipped, clean diesel buses to be manufactured by New Flyer under an existing contract. Replacing two of GPTD's 2004 35-foot diesel buses that have exceeded their useful life within a reasonable timeframe will ensure lower operating and maintenance costs while minimizing service disruptions due to malfunctioning equipment.

Thank you for your attention to the Greater Portland Transit District's application. We urge your consideration of this application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff please notify Cameron O'Brien at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator