

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 28, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for funding for its Maine Western Gateways Project through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program. The project will fulfill local transportation and economic needs by rehabilitating sections of state highways and support infrastructure improvements in three rural communities in Maine.

Maine faces unique challenges as a rural state, particularly in terms of maintaining reliable infrastructure. For this proposal, MDOT has identified three communities that act as rural "gateways" to Western Maine's sites and resources for tourists visiting the state, commercial vehicles moving goods, and residents living and working in the area. MDOT believes the three chosen communities – the Towns of Kingfield, Woodstock, and Fryeburg – hold potentially valuable economic opportunities that can be realized through investments in key road infrastructure.

If selected for funding, MDOT would repair and resurface designated roadways that run directly through each town, improve underground utilities, and enhance pedestrian flow and safety. Two of the roads are a part of the National Highway System, which further highlights the critical need for safe and efficient infrastructure in this region. MDOT also plans to address concerns related to American with Disabilities Act standards by assessing and making appropriate infrastructure upgrades in each community.

We strongly believe that MDOT's Maine Western Gateways Project will help provide safe access to outdoor recreation and better routes for the lumber industry in Western Maine. Rehabilitating the targeted highways and roads is an essential step toward ensuring the region's long-term financial viability. BUILD funding would allow MDOT to begin modernizing area transportation infrastructure, further expanding economic opportunity in Western Maine and enhancing the quality of life for area residents.

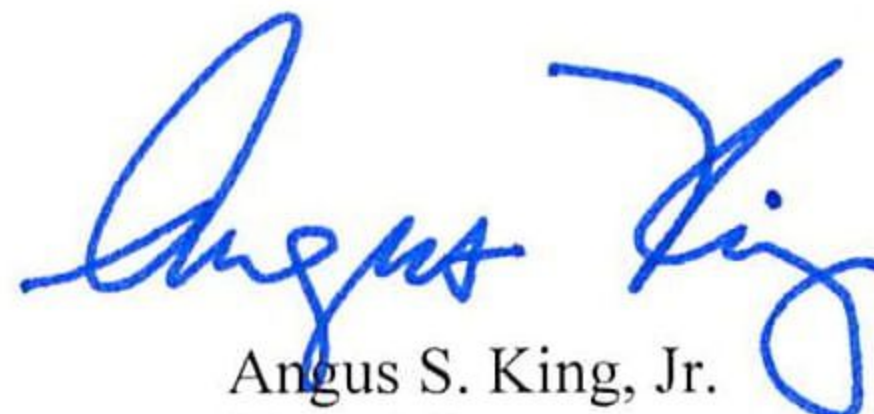
Thank you for your attention to this proposal. We respectfully request that the Department give careful consideration to the Maine Department of Transportation's application, subject to all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that your staff notify [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator