

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 11, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C., 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are writing to express our strong support for the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation for funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Fostering Advancements in Shipping and Transportation for the Long-Term Achievement of National Efficiencies (FASTLANE) grant program. The Maine Intermodal Port Productivity Project (MIPPP) is an ideal candidate for funding as it meets the goal of the FASTLANE program by enhancing multimodal freight transportation. The total cost of the project is \$15.4 million. The Maine Department of Transportation is seeking \$7.7 million in FASTLANE funds, which will be matched with another \$7.7 million in contributions by non-federal sponsors.

The MIPPP would make improvements to the International Marine Terminal at the Port of Portland building on previous freight upgrades to double the output capacity for this important northeastern intermodal seaport, which is critical to trade with Canada and Northern Europe. The recent reconnection of rail service to the Port has revitalized domestic market access and provides the opportunity to lower transportation costs for Maine businesses. The improvements proposed in the MIPPP will improve rail service and the efficiency of operations at the Port while increasing safety.

The Project involves a number of infrastructure upgrades to the existing intermodal terminal, including: a rehabilitated pier and wharf deck; an additional mobile harbor crane; a new terminal operations and maintenance facility; and safety improvements for the existing intermodal yard. These physical improvements will enable the Port to more safely and efficiently connect with the national rail network and will minimize highway traffic from New York State to the State of Maine.

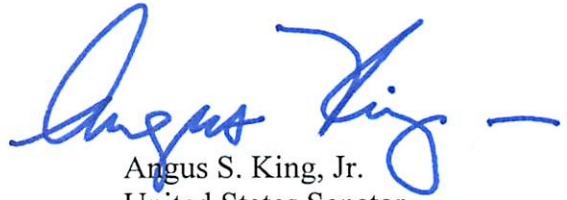
We are confident that FASTLANE funds would create jobs, increase freight velocity, and improve the global competitiveness of Maine through the Port's revitalization. The Maine Department of Transportation has stated the MIPPP will be ready to proceed immediately upon receiving funding. As such, we respectfully request that you give this application every appropriate consideration subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

In addition, we request that you notify Elizabeth McDonnell (Collins) at (202) 224-2523, Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344, Joe Marro (Pingree) at (202) 225-6116, and Michael Sinacore (Poliquin) at (202) 225-6306 when a final determination has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress