

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 19, 2017

Ms. K. Jane Williams  
Deputy Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Deputy Administrator Williams:

We are pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the Casco Bay Island Transit District (CBITD) for funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) competitive Passenger Ferry Grant Program. CBITD would use this funding to replace a ferry vessel that has exceeded its useful life.

Based in Portland, Maine, and operating since 1981, CBITD is a quasi-municipal entity that provides year-round ferry service for passengers, vehicles, freight, and mail delivery to six inhabited islands in Casco Bay. The ferry system is a critical lifeline for the islands' full-time and seasonal residents that would otherwise have no means of transportation to the mainland. CBITD's five ferries are an essential part of Maine's transportation network, transporting over one million passengers annually. Demand for Casco Bay ferry service continues to grow as evidenced by an 8% increase in passengers in fiscal year 2016.

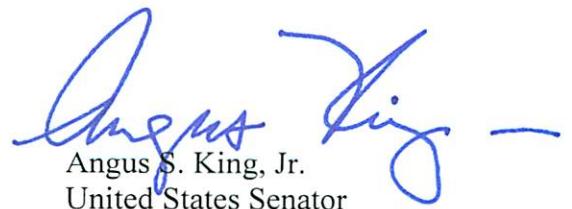
CBITD is at a point where it must make improvements to its fleet of five ferries, which has an average age of 19.6 years – the oldest ferry being 32 years old. This project therefore aligns with the grant program's goals and emphasis on state of good repair by replacing the fleet's oldest ferry. We believe this major transportation improvement is crucial to the ferry system's continued safe and reliable operations, and will benefit our state's residents and visitors alike for years to come.

Thank you for your time and effort on behalf of the Casco Bay Island Transit District. We urge your careful consideration of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Katie Seelen (Collins) 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