Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2014

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave Se
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Foxx,

We write to again express our full support for the Departments of Transportation for the States of Maine and New Hampshire in their combined application for a Transportation Investment Generating Recovery (TIGER) VI grant for the Sarah Mildred Long ("Sarah Long") Bridge Replacement Project.

The Sarah Mildred Long Bridge is a regional link in New England connecting Kittery, Maine and Portsmouth, New Hampshire. There is an urgent need to replace this 74 year old bridge given that its condition is structurally deficient and functionally obsolete according to the Federal Highway Administration. The truss spans have been deemed fracture-critical, which could result in the collapse of the entire structure. A full replacement of the Bridge is needed to guarantee the continued strength of this vital coastal corridor.

The Bridge is a redundant bridge for the I-95 span, serves as a connector for commerce throughout the New England Region, and is a critical piece of multimodal infrastructure for a variety of stakeholders in Maine and New Hampshire and Maine. The rail line supports an important national security need, enabling the safe and efficient transport of nuclear waste from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. The Bridge is also essential to safe and efficient marine traffic. The construction of the bridge, combined with the currents of the Piscataqua River, make entering the Port of New Hampshire from upstream difficult for commercial vessels, as demonstrated by an oil tanker collision just over a year ago. As the size of cargo vessels increases, a new bridge is needed to ensure that the port remains a safe and viable destination for marine traffic. Finally, highway traffic will also be greatly improved by a new bridge, which will result in a 65% reduction in bridge lifts, reducing hours of vehicle traffic and accidents.

In addition to safety concerns and the benefits to rail crossing, marine crossing, and highway traffic addressed above, the full replacement of the Sarah Long Bridge critical to support for economic activity in the region, including an estimated $1.6 billion annual regional benefit from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, one of the largest employers in the region. By serving as the emergency alternate the I-95 Bridge, commercial vehicles will also more effectively be able to continue to cross Maine

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borders, which is essential to the state's economy. Ultimately, a new Sarah Long Bridge will include features to enhance livability, improve commercial navigation and maintain critical national security priorities.

Again, we strongly support the Sarah Mildred Long Bridge Replacement Project and urge your full and fair consideration of the competitive grant application submitted by the Maine and New Hampshire Departments of Transportation. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress