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CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUB COMMITTEES:

FORESTRY AND HORTICULTURE
LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES (RANKING MEMBER)

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Volunteer Maine Coastal Resilience Corps in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Volunteer Maine, Maine Commission for Community Service, located at:

32 Blossom Ln
3rd floor Marquardt Building
SHS 105
Augusta, Maine
04333

The funding would be used for strengthening coastal resilience and sustaining Maine's coastal economies through twenty service corps fellowships to build local capacity across coastal Maine. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because across Maine's coast, many communities, municipalities and regional organizations have completed significant planning to address coastal hazards, protect working waterfronts, and support the long-term viability of the marine economy but lack local capacity to implement these plans and projects. This project directly addresses that implementation gap by leveraging an existing statewide service network to provide hands-on support for project coordination, stakeholder engagement, planning implementation, and technical assistance to help communities build local partnerships and mobilize volunteers, ensuring that projects generate lasting community ownership and momentum beyond the period of federal funding.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1451 et seq.).

2 PORTLAND FISH PIER, SUITE 304
PORTLAND, ME 04101
PHONE: 207-774-5019
FAX: 207-871-0720

1 SILVER STREET
WATERVILLE, ME 04901
PHONE: 207-873-5713
FAX: 207-873-5717



I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chellie R". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress