

August 28, 2009

Mr. David A. Cole, Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Commissioner Cole:

We, the concerned Aroostook County Rail Users named below, met today and strongly support the proposed Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant application entitled "Madawaska Subdivision Project" impacting communities from Millinocket to Madawaska in Aroostook and Penobscot counties.

The Madawaska subdivision of the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railroad (former Bangor & Aroostook Railroad) is a critical 233-mile rail corridor that connects northern Maine to the rest of the regional and national rail transportation network. Although rail traffic volumes have significantly decreased, we and the remaining rail customers are dependent on the cost effectiveness of rail to remain competitive in our respective markets. Without direct rail, we will face higher costs for inbound transportation of materials required for production and higher outbound costs of moving products to national markets. Some of us that are able will convert from rail shipments to truck, further exacerbating the already serious problems on the state and local roadway network in the region.

The purpose of this project is to ensure continuation of necessary rail services along the line segment and branches, in order to enhance the economic competitiveness (and survival) of the region and our communities. Restoration of rail service will provide immediate jobs during construction and will increase economic opportunities for existing and new industries using freight service for many years into the future.

Sincerely,

Aroostook County Rail Users:

Signature

Tracy Caron
Larry E Clark
Kevin Kearney
Dick Wood
Dag Macrell
Dan Foster
Kandy Richards
Don A. Tardie

Printed Name

Tracy Caron
Larry E Clark
Kevin Kearney
Dick Wood
Dag Macrell
DAN FOSTER
Kandy Richards
DONALD A. TARDIE

Company Name

Frasen Papers
P Isle Ind Corpn
Huber Engineered Woods
Naturally Better
SFE mfg. Inc.
Town of Forest Fairfield
Daigle Oil Company
Maine Woods Company.

