

September 9, 2009

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

**RE: TIGER Discretionary Grant Application  
Caribou Connector**

Dear Commissioner Cole:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of *LEADers Encouraging Aroostook Development*, I am writing to express support for the Transportation Investment Generating Economy Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant application entitled "Caribou Connector," between Route 1 and Route 161 in Caribou, Maine

The Caribou Connector is a beginning piece of a much larger vision for a North-South highway that LEAD has long supported, primarily to spur economic progress in the region and create a transportation corridor connecting northern Maine to I-95. The City of Caribou has an aggressive schedule to start construction of Segment 4, from Route 161 to the Route 1 By-Pass, by the spring of 2010. The anticipated use of the TIGER Discretionary Grant is to fully fund the shovel-ready Caribou Connector, and preserve the limited resources available to accomplish other portions of the overall Aroostook County Transportation Study.

We are pleased to provide this letter of support to ensure continuation of this necessary highway segment, and believe it will enhance the economic competitiveness of the region and its communities. The Caribou Connector will provide immediate jobs during construction and will increase economic opportunities for existing and new businesses moving into the region.

Sincerely,



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**Leaders Encouraging Aroostook Development (LEAD)**, a non-profit corporation comprised of approximately one hundred business and community members, was established in 1986 for the purpose of fostering and encouraging the balanced development of Aroostook County. This group of volunteers focuses on the economy, jobs, image, partnerships, promoting new and existing businesses, natural resources, and legislation. Today, LEAD is proud to celebrate over two decades of achievement with the continued support of individuals and businesses committing their valuable time to improve the future of Aroostook County.