

City of Presque Isle

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August 13, 2010

David A. Cole, Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

Dear Mr. Cole:

It is my understanding that the MDOT is currently working on two grant applications ("TIGER II") to benefit the rail ways in Aroostook County. As important as the rail lines to this community and the whole of Aroostook County, I would be remiss if I did not write you in support of those applications.

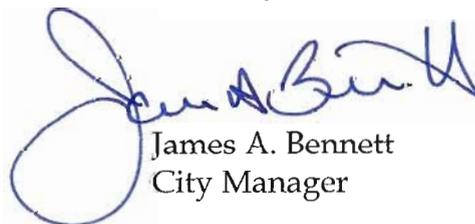
With \$10,500,000 to be spent on track upgrades, the "Aroostook Rail Preservation and Rehabilitation Project", and the "Aroostook County Rail Corridor Planning and Development" project totaling \$400,000, will help make Aroostook County once again, a viable area for freight rail service.

Anything that can be done to generate the re-establishment, expansion and establishment of rail-related business activity in the 'County' will benefit shippers, communities and development organizations throughout the entire State of Maine.

I encourage you and your staff to move forward with these two projects as they are vital to this area in the creation of jobs and bringing much needed rail service back to this area.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



James A. Bennett
City Manager

JB/nm