

County of Aroostook

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DOUGLAS F. BEAULIEU



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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August 16, 2010

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

RE: Support for Tiger II Applications
Aroostook County Rail System

Dear Commissioner Cole:

The County of Aroostook has been advised that two (2) "Tiger II" grant applications are being submitted to benefit our rail system. We are writing to support these initiatives.

Aroostook County is located at the top of northern Maine, along the Canadian border. Two of its principal industries are forestry and agriculture, both of which are reliant on rail service. Recently the current operator, Montreal Maine & Atlantic has undertaken the process of abandoning 233 miles of track in this region, which would essentially cripple numerous businesses and industries critical to this region's economic well-being. The economic health and viability of our County is dependent on the preservation and rehabilitation of this important infrastructure.

We believe the State of Maine recognizes this, so we urge your support of these grant applications in a most aggressive but diplomatic way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D F Beaulieu".

Douglas F. Beaulieu
County Administrator

Pc: County Commissioners
Denis Berube, NMDC