



Seven Islands Land Company

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April 10, 2014

Fred Michaud
Scenic Byways Program Coordinator
Policy Development Specialist
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

Re: Route 4

Dear Fred,

We are writing to express strong support for reconstruction of 4.6 miles of Route 4 in Phillips and Madrid. With offices and employees in Bangor and Rangeley, our people and forest products travel Route 4 daily. Road upgrades between Farmington and Rangeley over the past several years have made huge improvements in safety. This is the last section remaining, and work is obviously necessary. (A severed utility pole in Madrid last year warned drivers of danger on that narrow, curvy, bumpy section of road.)

Route 4 is an economic artery, critical to the survival of the small western Maine towns it serves. We depend upon it to get forest products from the Rangeley region to mills. In doing so we provide employment for local harvesters, truckers, mechanics, loan officers, insurance providers, equipment sellers, etc.

Farmington is the service center for Rangeley, Dallas Plantation, Madrid, Phillips and other small communities served by Route 4. People travel to work, medical appointments, car repair, shopping centers, the hospital, pharmacy and other businesses in Farmington, year-round, in all weather conditions. Conversely, goods come from Farmington to stores and businesses in the small communities, everything from energy to electrical supplies to fresh fish.

Route 4 brings people into the region as well, to recreate, enjoy summer homes or visit as tourists. All spend money to keep the local economy humming. A better road makes the trip more enjoyable and hence more likely to be taken. Saddleback Ski area is a big draw. People who wouldn't have driven Route 4 (to Saddleback) before the upgrades have been more likely to do so with each improvement.

There are no acceptable alternatives to Route 4. Routes 16 and 17 are far out-of-the way, posted in the spring and would add tremendous cost and time to trucking.

Route 4 upgrades to date were extremely necessary, have been greatly appreciated, and are connecting mountain communities to the rest of the world. We urge funding of the final 4.6 mile upgrade.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Medina
Land use Director