

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2026

The Honorable David Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink:

We write in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) application for funding through the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program for the Northern Aroostook Rail Gateway Modernization and Safety Project.

This project represents an investment in Maine's transportation infrastructure. If funded, more than 90 miles of the Maine Northern Railway's Madawaska Subdivision and the Eastern Maine Railway's Van Buren Subdivision rail lines will be rehabilitated. These improvements include replacing aging rail, crossties, and ballast, along with renovating a key railroad bridge. The benefit of this project is two-fold: the modernization of the transportation network will increase the safety and dependability of the corridor, which will in turn support the region's economic wellbeing.

The rail system in Aroostook County provides the only rail connection linking northern Maine's forest products and agricultural industries to the national freight rail network. Not only does this translate into jobs, but it supports supply chain needs while decreasing road congestion. Continued investment in this corridor is essential to ensure that Maine remains competitive in domestic and international markets. The requested CRISI funding will build upon that progress by improving operational safety and maintaining strong freight corridors for decades to come.

Please give the MaineDOT's application every appropriate consideration, consistent with applicable laws, rules, and regulations, and notify Melissa Landry at (207) 784-6969 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator