

2162 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

PHONE: 202-225-6116
FAX: 202-225-5590

WWW.PINGREE.HOUSE.GOV



CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT MAINE

November 21, 2022

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES, CHAIR
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH
CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

The Honorable Amit Bose
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose:

I write you in support of the "Tri-State Regional Rail Upgrade" CRISI grant application.

The St. Lawrence & Atlantic Railroad (SLR) was a spinoff of Canadian National in 1989, operating a line that extended from the Vermont / Canada border all the way to Portland, Maine. The railroad was never upgraded to allow it to handle a modern, fully loaded freight car. The inability to handle a modern freight car has inhibited efforts to grow industry and jobs along the line, further compounding the problem the region has experienced with a declining paper industry.

SLR has worked with the states of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and over the last decade has replaced much of the rail along its 162-mile line. It is down to the last pieces of the project. Recognizing the importance of this project, Vermont DOT (VTrans) will be submitting to your office a CRISI grant request that will allow the final upgrades to be realized. It has the support of New Hampshire DOT, and Maine DOT. Maine DOT has also committed \$1.9 million in matching funds for this very important regional project.

I thank you for your time and effort. I urge your full and fair consideration of this application, in accordance to all laws and regulations. Please don't hesitate to contact Corrinne Latti in my office at (202) 225-6116 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

2 PORTLAND FISH PIER, SUITE 304
PORTLAND, ME 04101
PHONE: 207-774-5019
FAX: 207-871-0720



108 MAIN STREET
WATERVILLE, ME 04901
PHONE: 207-873-5713
FAX: 207-873-5717