



Downeast Economic Development
Your Bridge to Global Markets

October 2, 2017

David Bernhardt, PE, Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0016


Dear Commissioner Bernhardt,

Downeast Economic Development is a private, non-profit organization whose sole mission is to actively recruit new businesses to eastern Washington County. A robust transportation infrastructure is critical to our success. And while we can boast of three international border crossings, partial rail service (in collaboration with Woodland Pulp), a natural deep-water port (Eastport) and a regional airport that can refuel jets and clear customs, *we cannot lay claim to an east/west highway that connects Canada and Washington County directly to Interstate 95.*

In our efforts to attract new employers to the region it is important that we demonstrate the ability for businesses to transport their goods to and from the market. A connector route between Brewer and Eddington that will feed directly to Interstate 95 will allow for us to make such a claim and to showcase our strategic geographic location – situated between the Canadian Maritime Provinces and the eastern seaboard's major transportation corridor, I-95.

Our area's ability to experience sustained economic growth (and subsequent population growth) are dependent upon projects such as the I-395 Connector. Not only will Routes 9 and I-395 get connected, but those of us living in eastern Maine will also become more easily connected with the rest of the State and New England. We extend our support and anxiously await the completion of this important project.

Sincerely,


Julie Jordan
Director

Downeast Economic Development
P.O. Box 425, Calais, Maine 04619
P.O. Box 370, Baileyville, Maine 04694
207-214-5926
www.downeasteconomicdevelopment.com
ewced@outlook.com