



EASTPORT

PORT AUTHORITY

Tel: 207-853-4614 Fax: 207-853-9584
Website: www.portofeastport.org
P.O. Box 278, Eastport, ME 04631-0278

October 19th, 2017

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

Dear Commissioner Bernhardt,

I write today to express the Eastport Port Authority's support of the I-395 Route 9 connector project between Brewer and Eddington. As you and the Department are well aware the Port of Eastport Maine is the deepest natural seaport in the entire continental United States boasting a naturally occurring mean low water depth of 64 feet and approach depths all in excess of 100 ft. Complimenting this is the fact that we also have zero air draft restrictions.

Although not hampered by water depth or air draft restrictions and the potential costs that can be associated with such, we are however challenged by our lack of rail access and thusly depend on commercial truck traffic to feed our facility for all current and future business opportunities. Therefore, anything that can be done to make commercial truck traffic flows into eastern Maine more safe and efficient while offering greater connectivity to the Port of Eastport will always have our support.

Being familiar with the completed "I-395/Route 9 Transportation Study" and its evaluation of transportation alternatives to improve regional system linkage, relieve traffic congestion, and improve safety along Routes 1A and 46 we see this project as a specific benefit to the Port's overall transportation infrastructure as well as that of all of Maine.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Gardner
Executive Director
Eastport Port Authority