

Office of the
City Manager and
the City Council



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

Reference: Eastport Gateway Project

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Dear Commissioner Cole:

The City of Eastport acknowledges its support for the proposed Eastport Freight Rail Restoration Project and the ongoing efforts of the Eastport Port Authority to strengthen the foundation of economic development in Washington County.

The project was locally initiated and industry supported to further invest in freight rail for Washington County. The focus of this proposal is to return rail to the Town of Perry via the existing St. Croix line and the build of a state of the industry inter-modal facility in Perry. This will allow the Port of Eastport, the deepest natural seaport in the entire continental United States, to have rail access for the first time ever in its 30 plus year existence.

We support the Port, Industry and State and Federal partners who believe this connection will provide great opportunities for the Downeast region. Details of the project can be found in the recent Port of Eastport Freight Rail Service Restoration Study completed by HNTB Consultants under contract through the Maine Department of Transportation and the Eastport Port Authority. Online data is available via electronic copy on the Eastport Port Authority website at www.portofeastport.org.

The cost of this proposal is estimated between 38-53 million dollars according to the recent engineering study. Federal, State and Local officials all agree that this is suitable and notable project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Tiger Grant Program and application for funding under this program will be made through the Maine Department of Transportation.

Thank you in advance for your support in pursuing this critical infrastructure need for Downeast Maine and the Port of Eastport. If you would like further input from the City, please feel free to contact us.

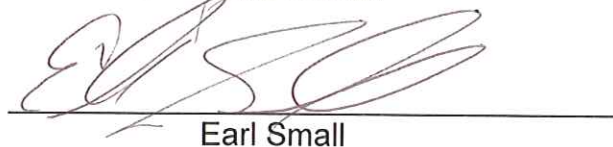
Sincerely,

City Councilors


Paul Critchley


John Miller


Brian Schuth


Earl Small

Cc: Senator Snowe
Senator Collins
Congressman Michaud
Governor Baldacci
Washington County Delegation