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Congress of the United States
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September 4, 2009

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

Reference: Eastport Gateway Project

Dear Commissioner Cole:

I am writing to voice strong support for the Eastport Gateway Project being submitted by the State of Maine under the ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) TIGER Grant Program.

For us in Maine, this project's goal would provide the following: return freight rail service to Washington County and the Estes Head International Cargo Port in Eastport via the rehabilitation and rebuild of existing rail infrastructure in the region to a new inter-modal facility to be located in the town of Perry is very much in-line with the intent of the ARRA's focus and overall purpose.

I agree with many that this truly represents a "last mile" project that will utilize stimulus funding to invest in existing rail and cargo port infrastructure to vastly improve the inter-modal shipping system for the region. This system will be created by finally instituting a port and rail connection that has never been afforded to the deepest natural seaport located in all of the continental United States.

With Eastport's natural deep-water attributes, it also provides the benefits of zero dredging costs and, perhaps more importantly, by not having to engage in high impact dredging activities ever in its existence, the Port of Eastport is a superb model of an environmentally friendly port operation.

This proposal aligns with all regional economic groups in Washington County and makes the Eastport Gateway Project a perfect economic solution for the region.

I hope that you receive this application with as much enthusiasm and excitement for the Eastport Gateway Project as I have. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

With warmest regards,



Michael H. Michaud
Member of Congress

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