



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

September 3, 2009

Dear Commissioner Cole:

I write as the newly appointed General Manager of Domtar's Woodland pulp mill in strong support of revitalization of rail connections to the Port of Eastport.

Upon my arrival in Washington County I was quickly made aware of the tremendous investment made by your Department in highway and port facilities serving "downeast" Maine. Without question, I can say that having a world class port facility like Eastport so close to the Woodland mill has been critical in the mill's past success. Indeed, having the Port was a crucial link to the re-start of the mill in late June of this year.

As a practical matter with the project as proposed to terminate in Perry, some eight miles from the port facility, it's unlikely that pulp would be shipped from the Woodland mill to the Port of via rail. We strongly support expanding the scope of the proposed project to restore rail service to the FMT terminal in Eastport. This would make this project more attractive to my company and, very likely, to other potential shippers as well.

A rail link to Eastport is important as the Port Authority works to increase tonnage going over the pier. In my view, as tonnages increase into or out of Eastport, ships making ports-of-call at Eastport will also increase. With increased shipping activity, comes the potential for increased shipping opportunities. Where previous shipments of relatively small tonnages may not have been practical, owing to the impracticality of attracting large ships for relatively small volumes, with more ships calling on Eastport we could then look at combining cargos to meet tonnage requirements.

Further Commissioner, Domtar bears a burden of knowing that every move made by our mill gets amplified at the Port. For nearly 30 years, the Woodland mill has been fortunate to have Eastport serve as a key link in our supply chain. But we all realize the Port needs to diversify its clientele base. In the end every stakeholder, including Domtar, will benefit from this action.

I hope you as Commissioner will seek to guide further development of Eastport by re-establishing the long sought after rail link that many believe is so important to a VERY vital transportation link. I believe a rail connection to Eastport will serve as the perfect complement to the investments already made in highway improvements and port facilities. Thank you for considering my comments.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,



Rick Polinski
General Manager
Domtar-Woodland Mill

Cc: D.Salisbury

J.Oliver

R.McIver

S.Beal

T.Howard- Ft.Mill, SC

✓Chris Gardner - FMT