



Eastern Maine Development Corporation

Leading Eastern Maine Communities to a Strong Economic Future

August 20, 2009

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

Reference: Eastport Gateway Project

Dear David,

Eastern Maine Development Corporation is in full support of the Eastport Freight Rail Restoration Project. As our mission is to create opportunities and take advantage of existing ones for economic, community, and workforce development, this project fits perfectly with our goals.

The construction of the inter-modal facility in Perry has multifaceted advantages not only for the Town of Perry, but for the State of Maine as a whole. The project will create jobs during its construction, boosting the local economy in and around Perry. Many of the jobs created will be skilled labor and will create opportunities for skilled workers in Maine.

After construction is complete the inter-modal facility will continue to provide permanent job opportunities for those who will operate it and also those who operate the means of transportation for the goods handled there. As material is shipped, this traffic will have benefits across the state. By connecting the existing deep water port with the freight rail system, the region and the state will be poised to become key players in the shipping industry.

The connection between ocean going cargo and the freight rail system will give not only the Perry/Eastport region an advantage, it creates another asset Maine as a whole can leverage into future projects. Given the range and permanence of the opportunities for growth provided by the project, Eastern Maine Development offers its full support for the Eastport Freight Rail Restoration Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael W. Aube', written in a cursive style.

Michael W. Aube  
President/CEO