



FEDERAL MARINE TERMINALS, INC.
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Commissioner David Cole
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0016

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4 August 2009

Dear Commissioner Cole,

Federal Marine Terminals, as the operating company in the Port of Eastport, strongly supports the project being undertaken to establish a rail connection to the port. The port has excellent assets. It is the deepest seaport on the east coast of North America and will never require dredging. The labor force in the Port of Eastport is very capable. The pier at Eastport is only eleven years old and is used three to six days a month on average for current operations. The port has tremendous capacity to expand. The only way to expand operations is to increase the customer base and that will require reaching customers further from the port. Trucking, for cost and environmental reasons, is not a reasonable option.

We are looking at the possibility of moving cargo into the Montreal market and into the mid-western U.S. during the winter months when the Great Lakes are not passable. Import fertilizers in bulk are one such commodity that would require rail transportation from the port. Container movement to and from these and other northeastern markets would be possible from the port as there are no impediments to double stacked rail cars between Eastport and the main rail trunks.

The Port of Eastport needs rail access to be connected to the possibilities afforded by an extended hinterland. This will allow a fuller utilization of the assets already in place including a good labor force. The additional work the rail would bring to the port and to the region will no doubt help to invigorate the economy in an area of the country where unemployment figures are traditionally quite high.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R.E. Rogers III', is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

R.E. Rogers III
General Manager
FMT Eastport