



*Machias Bay Area
Chamber of Commerce*

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September 4, 2009

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

Dear Commissioner Cole:

The Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce (MBACC) is fully in support of the Eastport Gateway whose purpose and focus is to bring rail to the town of Perry in Washington County using the existing St Croix rail line. In addition, the building of a state of the industry inter-modal facility will be placed there linking the Port of Eastport to the rail. The combination of those two projects will enhance the use of the Port of Eastport, the nation's deepest water port, allowing rail access for the first time in the port's 30 plus year history.

The possibilities for sustainable economic opportunities to Washington County are great. The millions of dollars and new jobs that will come as a result of this venture will have a positive impact on Washington County. The infrastructure system of Washington County is in need of assistance; this inter-modal facility and rail system teamed with the Port of Eastport will aid in the development of a strong infrastructure system in the county.

The Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce is represented on the Rails to Trails/Sunrise Trail Coalition and believes in the Downeast Sunrise Trail as well as seeing tremendous value in this project. The positive economic impact that this project will have on the county will be felt for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Shannon

Kathleen M. Shannon
Executive Director