



## Town of Baileyville

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August 14, 2009

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

Dear Commissioner Cole:

I am currently acting town manager of Baileyville and it is in that capacity that I am writing to you in support of the Eastport Gateway Project. Not only will this project promote economical growth for the citizens in Eastport, it will also be an economical benefit to all the citizens in Washington County.

I have lived in Baileyville for 40 years. Once this small town was the envy of Washington County with a progressive school system, a low unemployment rate, excellent municipal services and a solid economical base. In the last decade the town has lost a stud mill and an OSB plant, seen the shut down of a paper machine and just this spring witnessed the closure of the Domtar pulp mill. As a resident, member and chair of the Baileyville Town Council and twice the acting town manager, I can attest to the problems that the loss of these jobs have caused for the residents of the town and the county.

While Domtar pulp mill was down on an indefinite closure, the Port of Eastport had to lay off loading labors; truck drivers, foresters and wood harvesters were out of work. Forty-two workers at Fulgham Fibres were put on unemployment and this does not even take into account the trickle down effect on local stores and businesses. The resumption of work at the Domtar pulp mill has put some of these people back to work but we need more and better infrastructure to build the economical back bone of the county. The Eastport Gateway Project would be a giant step towards the resurgence of a once prosperous economy in Washington County.

Connecting Baileyville's Domtar pulp mill with the Port of Eastport via railroad is a concept the entire county can support. The empty OSB mill and the Domtar pulp mill with its idle paper machine already have rail connections which leave town and cross into Canada. This rail returns to the American side in Calais, runs to Ayers Junction in Charlotte and then has a trail to Perry. These rail tracks have right-of-way, which is already owned by the state, and begs to be readied to feed products to the port of Eastport.

Please count Baileyville and its residents as solid supporters of the Eastport Gateway Project and in agreement with federal, state and local officials that this is a “suitable and notable project under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Tiger Grant Program.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dorothy A. Johnson".

Dorothy A. Johnson  
Acting Town Manager  
Council Chair, Baileyville, Maine