

Town of Charlotte
Office of Selectmen
P.O. Box 55
Charlotte, Maine 04666

August 24, 2009

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

Reference: Eastport Gateway Project

Dear Commissioner Cole,

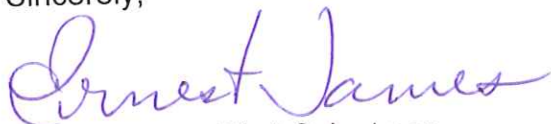
Please accept this letter in enthusiastic support for the proposed Eastport Freight Rail Restoration Project.

This project is a locally initiated and industry supported proposal to further invest in freight rail in Washington County. The focus of this proposal is to return to the Town of Perry via the existing St. Croix line and the building of a state of the industry inter-modal facility in Perry. This will allow the Port of Eastport, the deepest natural seaport in the entire continental United States, to have rail access for the first time ever in its 30 plus year existence.

The Town of Charlotte supports this proposal to invest in freight rail in Washington County. The infrastructure investment will support job growth and long term employment security in eastern Washington County.

Thank you for your attention and support of this important project.

Sincerely,



Ernest James, First Selectman
Town of Charlotte