



Town of Machias
Town Office
7 Court Street, Suite #1
P.O. Box 418
Machias, ME 04654



September 2, 2009

Commissioner David Cole
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-1106

Reference: Eastport Gateway Project

Dear Commissioner Cole:

Washington County is a vast area and within the county any project can have a broad impact. The Eastport Gateway Project will be such an undertaking.

It is doubtful that the full impact of the Eastport facility was understood until the Domtar Mill closed for two months. With that closure came the loss of jobs and a localized event soon turned into a tidal wave of concern. Within a month's time the impact of the closure had traveled across the county. When the Domtar Mill reopened, the sigh of relief could be heard everywhere.

To speculate on conditions twenty years in the future is an almost impossible task; to remain passive in the face of an opportunity to be responsive to future conditions is reprehensible. Therefore, the Town of Machias enthusiastically supports the development of the Eastport Gateway Project as a source of employment in the short-term and a step into the future for the long term.

Although Washington County is a substantial county in geographic area; a sense of community prevails. A project that provides benefits in Eastport will inspire economic investment and progress for all the county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy Fitzgerald".

Betsy Fitzgerald
Town Manager