

Appendix E



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to rebuild the Madawaska – Edmundston International Bridge in northern Maine.

The State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and the low population density in sections of the state. Much of Maine consists of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. This makes reliable infrastructure critical for U.S. businesses in the region to compete, critical for employment and mobility, and critical for getting people to and from work, school, shopping, and health care. The INFRA project will replace the nearly century-old international bridge, which adjoins a land port of entry (LPOE) linking Madawaska in Aroostook County, Maine, with Edmundston, in New Brunswick, Canada. A weight restriction was placed on this fracture-critical bridge in October 2017, preventing commercial trucks and heavy vehicles such as fire trucks, from traversing the bridge. The weight restriction is devastating to commerce, job growth, and business opportunity in the region. The poor condition of the bridge also creates challenges for residents and tourists as they move across the border to make deliveries, enjoy Maine's natural beauty and conduct daily life. Residents of northern Maine and southern New Brunswick are historically linked like few other U.S. border regions. Constructing a new bridge will allow businesses and residents to have the modern transportation infrastructure that others take for granted. If a new bridge is not built, this region of the Northeast will experience a continued decline in financial and employment opportunities, as well as disadvantages that other Canadian border crossing regions don't have to contend with.

I am pleased that MaineDOT is seeking assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation to replace this bridge. As Governor of the State of Maine, I strongly believe that this region of the country cannot be competitive on a regional, national or global scale if this part of the highway system is not able to support commercial vehicles. The declining condition of the bridge reduces the quality of life for area residents and expands the rural opportunity gap experienced in much of Maine.



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Therefore, I respectfully request that you consider fully funding the project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Janet T. Mills
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write today in strong support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation for funding assistance through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Program. MaineDOT's application seeks \$36 million in federal funding toward the Madawaska International Bridge Replacement Project, a project that will also receive contributions from Maine and Canada, with a total cost of more than \$73 million.

The Madawaska International Bridge, which connects Madawaska, Maine, with Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada, serves as a vital link for residents, businesses, and tourists alike, not only between two communities, but between two nations. This bridge was deemed fracture critical in October 2017, and has been posted with a five ton weight limit ever since. The bridge's deteriorating condition has proved detrimental to the communities served by this crucial connector, hindering the ability of businesses in the region to operate at full capacity.

One of the Maine companies that is being harmed by the highly restrictive weight limits on the bridge is the Twin Rivers Paper Company. The company's Madawaska mill is the largest employer in northern Maine, responsible for nearly 500 full-time equivalent Maine jobs and more than 5,800 indirect jobs across the region, and supporting more than 1,400 companies in its supply chain. The mill's wages are well above the average forest manufacturing earnings in the state, and Twin Rivers' operations generate nearly \$13 million in annual tax revenue for the state of Maine. Under the Madawaska International Bridge's current weight limits, all commercial traffic from Canada to Madawaska must now be re-routed primarily through the Van Buren, Maine, U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility, adding 75 miles and nearly two hours in transit time to each trip. Due to these mandatory detours, Twin Rivers is expected to absorb roughly \$12 million in additional transportation costs for raw materials and finished goods over the course of the replacement bridge's construction period.

The poor condition of the bridge also creates challenges for residents and tourists as they travel across the border to make deliveries, purchase everyday goods and services, and enjoy the outdoor recreation that Maine has to offer. A safe and structurally sound Madawaska International Bridge is essential to the daily lives of area residents and the regional economy, and a failure to replace it will create a continued decline in economic and employment opportunities in this region of Maine.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you consider funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards. We urge your careful consideration of these applications, subject to all applicable laws and regulations.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus King
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's (MaineDOT) Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application. MaineDOT is seeking \$36 million in federal funding to assist with the Madawaska International Bridge Replacement Project.

With financial contributions from both Maine and Canada, this \$73 million project will replace the existing bridge that serves as a vital link between Madawaska, Maine and Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada. The current bridge was built in 1920 and has become functionally obsolete. Since October 2017 a vehicle weight restriction of five tons has been posted, a reduction from the previous 50-ton limit. Most commercial vehicles must now detour to other border crossings, which are approximately 20 miles away in either direction, creating a real hardship for area residents and businesses.

These restrictions have proven to be increasingly detrimental to the region's largest employer, Twin Rivers Paper Company (Twin Rivers), which operates its business on both sides of the bridge. The company's Madawaska mill is the largest employer in northern Maine, responsible for nearly 500 full-time equivalent Maine jobs and more than 5,800 indirect jobs across the region, and supporting more than 1,400 companies in its supply chain. The mill's wages are well above the average forest manufacturing earnings in the state, and Twin Rivers' operations generate nearly \$13 million in annual tax revenue for the state of Maine. Under the Madawaska International Bridge's current weight limits, all commercial traffic from Canada to Madawaska must now be re-routed primarily through the Van Buren, Maine, U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility, adding 75 miles and nearly two hours in transit time to each trip. Due to these mandatory detours, Twin Rivers is expected to absorb roughly \$12 million in additional transportation costs for raw materials and finished goods over the course of the replacement bridge's construction period.

The weight limit has also proved difficult for emergency service personnel, and potentially dangerous for residents on both sides of the bridge who rely on cross-border fire departments in mutual aid instances. Madawaska and Edmundston have had a mutual aid agreement in place for nearly two decades, with both communities utilizing these critical services if one department's resources have become exhausted. The current five-ton weight limit has prohibited fire trucks from traversing the bridge, making responding through mutual aid nearly impossible.

Unless federal funds are acquired for this project, the current bridge may possibly be subject to closure, which would be devastating to both of the communities it connects. We therefore respectfully request that MaineDOT's application be viewed favorably and that you consider full funding for the International Bridge project in this round of INFRA awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. Our offices would be happy to discuss support for the project and its importance to this region of Maine should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



JARED GOLDEN
Member of Congress



CHELLIE PINGREE
Member of Congress



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
129th Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

February 22, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write today in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's efforts to secure funding through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. MaineDOT is seeking \$36 million in funding assistance in an effort to replace the Madawaska International Bridge. This is a \$73 million project that is vital to the communities the bridge connects.

The Madawaska International Bridge, which has been deemed functionally obsolete, has been posted for weight since October 2017, and is now threatened with the very real possibility of closure, should a replacement project not occur. This bridge serves as a vital link not only between two communities, but two nations, connecting Madawaska, Maine and Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada. The next nearest border crossings are approximately 20 miles in each direction, creating a tremendous burden on residents who need to traverse the border regularly.

The communities of Madawaska and Edmundston have historically shared a deep connection, with many residents having family members residing on both sides of the border. The bridge is also unique in the fact that it is heavily relied upon by the region's largest employer, Twin Rivers Paper Company, which is located on both sides of the bridge, and utilizes it as part of their production process. The existing bridge weight restriction necessitates rerouting many of the trucks delivering material to either side of Twin River's operation, driving up costs for the business, and making it difficult for them to compete regionally. With the once vibrant paper manufacturing industry now dwindling in Maine, it is important that we do what we can to ensure that Twin Rivers has the tools necessary to succeed.

We cannot stress enough the importance of this bridge replacement project to the districts we represent and to our constituency. We are pleased to see MaineDOT applying for financial support through INFRA and request that you consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

We thank you for your time and consideration and would be happy to discuss this project or letter of support should you have questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Troy D. Jackson in black ink.

Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

Handwritten signature of Roland D. Martin in black ink.

Roland D. Martin
State Representative

Town of Grand Isle

366 Main Street, P.O. Box 197

Grand Isle Maine 04746

Phone (207) 895-3420 Fax (207) 895-3355



February 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to rebuild Madawaska – Edmundston International Bridge in northern Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and low population density throughout much of the state. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. The state's rural nature makes reliable infrastructure critical for U.S. businesses in the region to compete, critical for employment and mobility, and critical for getting people to and from work, school, shopping, and health care. This INFRA project will replace the nearly century-old international bridge, which connects the Land Port of Entry (LPOE) linking Madawaska in Aroostook County, Maine, with a similar facility in Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada.

A weight restriction was placed on this fracture-critical bridge in October 2017, preventing commercial trucks and heavy vehicles such as fire trucks, from traversing the bridge. This weight restriction is devastating to commerce, job growth, and business opportunity in the region. The poor condition of the bridge also creates challenges for residents and tourists as they move across the border to make deliveries, enjoy the natural beauty that Maine has to offer, and to conduct daily life. Residents of northern Maine and southern New Brunswick are historically linked like few other U.S. border regions.

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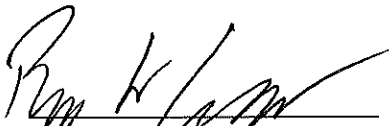
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Therefore, we respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

The Grand Isle Board of Selectmen



Raylan Lagasse



Terry Helms



Otis Frierson



Town of Madawaska
328 St. Thomas St., Suite 101
Madawaska, Maine 04756

February 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to rebuild the Madawaska – Edmundston International Bridge in northern Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and low population density throughout much of the state. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. The state's rural nature makes reliable infrastructure critical for U.S. businesses in the region to compete, critical for employment and mobility, and critical for getting people to and from work, school, shopping, and health care. This INFRA project will replace the nearly century-old international bridge, which connects the Land Port of Entry (LPOE) linking Madawaska in Aroostook County, Maine, with a similar facility in Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada.

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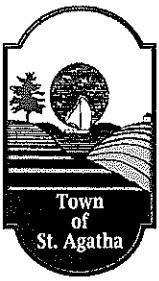
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Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Madawaska Town Manager



Municipalité
de
Ste. Agathe

Town of St. Agatha

Municipalité de Ste. Agathe

419 Main Street, PO Box 110
St. Agatha, Maine 04772

February 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

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Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aubrie Michaud
Town Manager

Board of Selectmen
Vacant
Christy Sirois
Beurmond Banville

Town Manager
Aubrie Michaud

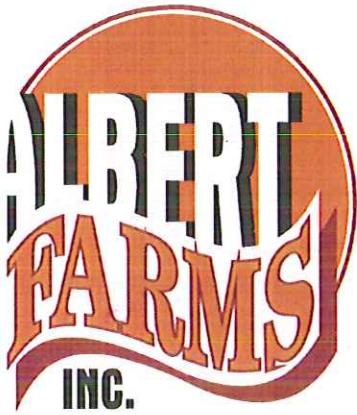
Town Clerk
Michelle Bernier

Deputy Clerk
Lee Ann Ouellette

Phone
(207) 543-7305

Fax
(207) 543-7306

Website
www.stagatha.com



ALBERT FARMS INC.
791 MAIN STREET
MADAWASKA ME 04756
207-728-4318 Fax 207-728-4943

February 25, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to rebuild the Madawaska – Edmundston International Bridge in northern Maine.

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Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Albert Pres.", is written over a white background.



Employee Owned,
Community Driven

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application to rebuild the Madawaska – Edmundston International Bridge in northern Maine.

As you are aware, the State of Maine has unique infrastructure challenges due to its geography, weather and low population density throughout much of the state. Much of Maine is comprised of vast forest land, making it one of the most rural states in the country. The state's rural nature makes reliable infrastructure critical for U.S. businesses in the region to compete, critical for employment and mobility, and critical for getting people to and from work, school, shopping, and health care. This INFRA project will replace the nearly century-old international bridge, which adjoins a Land Port of Entry (LPOE) linking Madawaska in Aroostook County, Maine, with Edmundston, New Brunswick, Canada. A weight restriction was placed on this fracture-critical bridge in October 2017, preventing commercial trucks and heavy vehicles such as fire trucks, from traversing the bridge. This weight restriction is devastating to commerce, job growth, and business opportunity in the region. The poor condition of the bridge also creates challenges for residents and tourists as they move across the border to make deliveries, enjoy the natural beauty that Maine has to offer, and to conduct daily life. Residents of northern Maine and southern New Brunswick are historically linked like few other U.S. border regions. Through an INFRA grant, constructing a new bridge will allow businesses and residents to have modern transportation infrastructure that others take for granted. If a new bridge is not built, this region of the Northeast will experience a continued decline in financial opportunities, employment opportunities, as well as disadvantages that other Canadian border crossing regions don't have to contend with.

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Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Vaillancourt", is written over a horizontal line.

Dan Vaillancourt
President

Main office:
155 W Main St
P.O. Box 328
Fort Kent, ME 04743

Tel: 207.834.5027
Fax: 207.834.5050
Toll-Free: 1.800.654.1869

www.daigleoil.com



PO Box 188
St. Agatha ME 04772
Phone: 207-543-6607
Fax: 207-543-9328

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

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Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Chamberland", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mark Chamberland
President of RF Chamberland INC



110 CHARETTE HILL RD.
FORT KENT, ME 04743
PH: 207.834.5073
FAX: 207.834.2033

February 26, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

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February 15, 2019

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Therefore, I respectfully request that you please consider fully funding this project in this round of INFRA grant awards.

82 Bridge Avenue
Madawaska, ME 04756
Tel 207-728-3321
Fax 207-728-8701
twinriverspaper.com



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Robert Snyder
Chief Executive Officer


Ken Winterhalter
President

Cc: Jared Golden
Susan Collins
Janet Mills

82 Bridge Avenue
Madawaska, ME 04756
Tel 207-728-3321
Fax 207-728-8701
twinriverspaper.com