



Maine Forest Products Council

The voice of Maine's forest economy

Companies represented
on the MFPC Board

American Forest Mgmt.

Baskahegan Co.

BBC Lands LLC

Cross Insurance

Family Forestry

Farm Credit East

Fontaine Inc.

Hancock Lumber

H.C. Haynes

Huber Resources

Innovative Natural

Resource Solutions

J.D. Irving

JM Cote Co.

Katahdin Forest Mgmt.

Key Bank

LandVest Inc.

Limington Lumber

Louisiana Pacific

Maibec Logging

Nicols Brothers

Pingree Associates

Prentiss & Carlisle

ReEnergy

Richard Wing & Son

Robbins Lumber

Sappi Fine Papers

Southern Maine Forestry

Stead Timberlands

TD Bank

Timber Resource Group

Timberstate G.

Verso Paper

W.T. Gardner & Sons

Wagner Forest Mgt.

October 11, 2017

Secretary Elaine L. Chao

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support for Maine Department of Transportation application for a TIGER IX grant to repair three highway bridges.

Dear Secretary Chao,

Since 1961, the Maine Forest Products Council, a not-for-profit trade association, has represented the diverse needs of Maine's forest products community. We speak for logging contractors, sawmills, paper mills, biomass energy, facilities, pellet manufacturers, furniture manufacturers, and on behalf of more than nine million acres of commercial forestland in Maine.

Maine's forest products industry has an \$8.5 billion impact on our state's economy, according to recent research by the University of Maine.

Safe, reliable transportation is essential not only for our industry, but for the rural communities where most of our workers live. That's why we strongly support Maine's application for a TIGER grant to replace the West Branch Bridge in T3 Indian Purchase Township, the Mattawamkeag Bridge in Mattawamkeag and the Pleasant River Bridge in Milo.

Replacing these aging bridges is critical for our industry, its workers and everyone who lives in these somewhat remote areas, because without them we could not:

- Maintain access to critical health facilities and for emergency responders
- Connect to regional services
- Provide access for business and recreation
- Encourage and facilitate economic growth.

In short, these bridges connect people to their jobs, the services they need, the schools they attend, the markets for their products and even the food they eat. That's why our state and our industry asks your support for this grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patrick Strauch, Executive Director