

Upper Valley Economic Corporation



36 School Street ♦ Suite 4 ♦ Sherman, ME 04776 ♦ USA
Phone 207-365-7631 ♦ Fax 207-365-7631

David A. Cole, Commissioner
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Commissioner Cole;

The Upper Valley Economic Corporation, a 501-(c) 3, non-profit corporation, is a consortium of the two communities of Sherman and Stacyville whose mission is to provide the best possible environment for local investment and entrepreneurial activity; to promote existing business expansion; to market the area to new industries; to compliment the valued aspects of the local lifestyle and to provide a point of contact/access (office) for inquiries from individuals and local, state and federal officials.

The Upper Valley Economic Corporation, (UVEC) is writing this letter of support for your two separate "TIGER II" grant applications towards activities that will benefit the rails in Aroostook County. The Town of Stacyville which borders the Town of Sherman has a stretch of railroad tracks that run through the center of their Town. The rail road is a vital tool in the economic growth and development for Stacyville and the surrounding Towns that border this community. The Forestry Industry and Lumber Mills is still a major employer for the majority of the citizens who live and work here. The rail system is still one of the most efficient ways to transport these products wood products to the market. If we rely solely on trucking to transport the wood and wood products produced here, the markup in fuel and other costs would lead to less demand, produce shorter work weeks and layoffs which would have a devastating economic effect on our area.

UVEC understands the need to have a well maintained and cost effective rail system to transport goods from Aroostook County to the market in other States. UVEC strongly believes that with this funding, the State of Maine can revitalize the railroad in Aroostook County and create a transportation system that will serve the businesses of Aroostook and make it viable once again for rail carriers to serve our area.

UVEC sees this potential funding to upgrade the tracks and to create a corridor plan for the rail system as a major step in the survival of businesses, jobs, and diversify new products and markets for the rail carrier.

Sincerely,

Jeff Packard
Office Manager/UVEC