

**Sawmill**

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April 16, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Maine DOT's Tiger 2014 grant request to help fund the replacement of the Androscoggin River Bridge #2019 in Peru-Mexico, Maine. Our sawmill that produces Eastern White Pine lumber with 225 direct employees here in Dixfield depends on this bridge as 100% of our logs and lumber arrive and leave our mill each day on heavy trucks. The vast majority of our log trucks and nearly all of our lumber trucks utilize this bridge to efficiently get our products to market. Often over 400 loads of heavy trucks would go across this bridge for our business alone each week.

Since it has been posted and closed to truck traffic over the last few months, it has created additional costs for our truckers by driving 6 to 10 extra miles (depending on the alternate route they take) at \$2 to \$3 per mile. The alternative routes also are twisty narrow roads – Rte. 140 and Canton Point Road, or further down through residential areas in Mexico and Rumford. These are not safe routes for heavy trucks to travel for the residents along those roads or our truckers.

Our lumber market and the economy in-general require a modern, well-kept road and bridge system to operate at its peak and to keep established businesses such as ours competitive.

The replacement of the Androscoggin River Bridge is a critical part of the health of our business here in Dixfield and we sincerely hope this project gets your full attention and consideration for funding.

Sincerely,

Alan Orcutt
General Manager,
Irving Forest Products Dixfield Mill