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May 14, 2015

Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: TIGER Grant Request for the Replacement of the Beals Island Bridge in Jonesport-Beals, Maine

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I would like to offer my strong support for the Maine DOT application Tiger funding for the Beals Island Bridge. The replacement of the bridge is absolutely crucial to the residents of Beals Island.

I represent District 138 in the Maine State House of Representatives, which includes both Beals Island and Jonesport, and I am a lifelong resident of the area. The bridge is the only connection between the island community of Beals and the mainland. As such it is the major commercial and social link for the island.

The existing bridge is nearly 60 years old, and according to MaineDOT, the substructure is rated as "poor" and the steel H-piles are deteriorating at an accelerated rate. They classify the bridge as structurally deficient.

A new bridge could be much more than just a replacement for the existing structure. By using modern construction techniques and materials, a new bridge would be safer, have lower maintenance costs and provide additional business opportunities for local residents. Wider roadway and shoulders could accommodate greater traffic and a wider variety of vehicles, including oversize loads, buses, and bicyclists. The new bridge could also provide an opportunity for pedestrian crossing, and even as a safe site to watch the annual lobster boat races.

I wholeheartedly encourage you to endorse TIGER funding for the Beals Island Bridge in the latest round of TIGER awards. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Alley Sr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Representative Robert Alley Sr.
Maine House District 138

District 138: Addison, Beals, Cherryfield, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Marshfield, Milbridge and Whitneyville