

August 18, 2010

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

RE: TIGER II Grant Applications

Dear Commissioner Cole:

On behalf of the Presque Isle Industrial Council and City, this letter is in support of the Maine Department of Transportation's application for "TIGER II" grants that will improve and promote the rail system serving Aroostook County.

The Industrial Council is responsible for promoting economic development along with the management and development of the City's Industrial Park. The park includes 450 acres of land and 5.5 miles of railroad tracks which are owned by the City. The City purchased the tracks in 1997 following the abandonment by its former owner, Aroostook Valley Railroad.

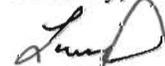
At that time, the City made a substantial investment to protect and preserve rail service to the Industrial Park and existing rail users. Also, a major investment was made in the year 2000 for the construction and equipping of an Intermodal Yard to serve the Industrial Park and surrounding communities. The Intermodal Yard was used in 2009 for the transloading and storage of wind turbine components.

The PIIC fully supports MDOT's applications for grant monies to improve the existing rail system for present and future customers. Also, the application for a planning grant is of significant importance to provide a long range plan for the rail system, its users, and to further promote the use of rail service. Improving the existing system is of utmost importance for its users to remain competitive within a global market.

In summary, the railroad is an essential part of Aroostook County's economy. There are numerous businesses in the County that depend on rail service for delivery of products and goods to and from their facilities.

Many thanks to you, Nate, Rob and staff for all your efforts to date in working to preserve and improve the County's rail system. If you have any questions, please advise.

Sincerely,



Larry E. Clark
Executive Director

Presque Isle Industrial Council

LEC/rkd