

# **Appendix D**

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are writing to express our strong support for the applications submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation for funding through the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) 2015 discretionary grant program. The projects, detailed below, are ideal candidates for funding as they meet each of the goals of the TIGER program by supporting regional and state transportation and economic goals. The applications submitted on behalf of Maine include:

- **Maine Regional Railways Project** – This project proposes to expand upon existing rail infrastructure and capital investments made by the Maine Northern Railroad, the Central Maine and Quebec Railroad, and the connecting lines of Pan Am Railways. By creating two improved rail interchanges and making track improvements this project will increase efficiency, reliability, and connectivity for rail users throughout central and northern Maine. This project will facilitate and support economic growth in the region by connecting shippers to the west, in Montreal, with international markets in the east, through Searsport, and to US Class I railroads to the south.
- **Jonesport-Beals Bridge** – This project proposes to replace the Beals Island Bridge, which was originally built in 1958 and serves as the only connection crossing between the island and town of Beals to the mainland of Jonesport. An underwater inspection of the bridge in May 2014 revealed the pier piles to be in poor condition with critical section loss in some areas. Additionally, the bridge's narrow width has warranted it to receive a classification of Functionally Obsolete from the Federal Highway Administration.

TIGER funding is critically important to these rural Maine infrastructure projects that address the transportation tenets of DOT's project guidelines. Each project seeks to improve rural connectivity, is ready to proceed, and would bring existing transportation facilities into good repair, all while creating economic opportunity in rural areas of Maine.

If funded, we are confident that these Maine TIGER 2015 National Infrastructure Investment applications would create jobs, improve key transportation-related assets, and provide regional economic growth and vitality. We respectfully request that you give these applications every appropriate consideration, subject to all applicable laws and regulations. In addition, we request that your staff notify David Lieberman (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Sanjay Kane (King) at (202) 224-7033 when a final determination has been made.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1902**

May 12, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write to express my support for the grant application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT) for the FY2015 TIGER Program to make major capital upgrades to Maine's freight rail system. The Maine DOT is seeking \$21,981,456, which the Maine DOT and private sector will match as necessary.

This project will improve mainline track to the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, increasing track speeds from 10 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour, while increasing safety and reliability. Track and signal improvements on Pan Am Railways from Bangor to Waterville will also increase track speeds to 25 miles per hour, and increase track safety and grade crossing safety. Track improvements on the Eastern Maine Railway will improve track speeds to 40 miles per hour from Brownville to Vanceboro.

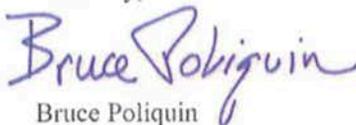
Additionally, this project will increase the capacity of the Madawaska and Oakfield rail yards, and improve the Van Buren, Brownville Junction, and Bangor interchange yards, which will make the interchanges more efficient and reduce dwell times. The Port of Searsport's lift-capacity crane will also be improved.

Central, Northern and Downeast Maine are some of the most rural parts of the East Coast. Many towns rely on a single employer, often a manufacturer, for economic viability. Three paper plants closed in 2014 alone. Improving rail speeds and reducing congestion will allow Maine raw materials and finished goods to move faster, increasing Maine's competitiveness, and supporting the good jobs many of Maine's industries provide.

Additionally, these improvements will make American exporters more competitive. Searsport is one day closer to Europe than New York is. Decreasing transport times through Maine will make the port more viable, allowing faster shipment of goods to Europe, giving an edge to American business.

I urge you to grant this application your full consideration and look forward to receiving a favorable response.

Sincerely,

  
Bruce Poliquin

2162 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

PHONE: 202-225-6116  
FAX: 202-225-5590

WWW.PINGREE.HOUSE.GOV



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND  
RELATED AGENCIES

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED  
AGENCIES

CHELLIE PINGREE  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT, MAINE

May 20, 2015

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

Dear Secretary Foxx,

I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's (MDOT) application for a 2015 TIGER grant for its *Regional Railways* project. MDOT's proposal would make needed improvements to Maine's statewide freight rail network.

Rail is a critical piece of infrastructure and an important economic driver for our state and region, as it connects widespread businesses to our marine ports as well as Canadian markets. Moreover, it benefits the transportation system by reducing carbon emissions, cutting highway traffic, and preventing expensive wear and tear on roads and bridges. But to keep rail a competitive option for freight, Maine's network of regional and short-line railroads, as well as the railyards that serve them, need a number of improvements and upgrades.

MDOT's *Regional Railways* project would do so by building on enhancements that private companies are already making. Track upgrades on several lines would allow trains to travel at higher speeds while improving safety for the communities they pass through. Railyard modernization would also increase capacity, make operations more efficient, and improve connections to the important Port of Searsport. Together, these projects would have a significant economic impact on the entire state.

I truly appreciate the U.S. Department of Transportation's work to maintain and modernize the country's transportation system, and highly value the TIGER program's role in those efforts. Thank you for giving MDOT's application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chellie R".

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress

2 PORTLAND FISH PIER, SUITE 304  
PORTLAND, ME 04101  
PHONE: 207-774-5019  
FAX: 207-871-0720



1 SILVER STREET  
WATERVILLE, ME 04902  
PHONE: 207-873-5713  
FAX: 207-873-5717



Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

May 22, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, for the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

TTY USERS CALL 711  
[www.maine.gov](http://www.maine.gov)

PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

FAX: (207) 287-1034



May 19, 2015

*Maine State Legislature  
Augusta, Maine 04333*

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

Dear Mr. Foxx,

We are writing in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's application for the 2015 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant for a regional railways project.

As a rural state, the grant would greatly benefit our local economy and infrastructure.

The grant would support the rail infrastructure in Northern Maine, specifically Aroostook, which we represent. It would modernize and increase capacity in rail yards on the Maine Northern Railway in Madawaska and Oakfield. Improvements would also be made at railroad interchange yards in Aroostook County. All of these improvements and modernizations would greatly assist our area by helping us to continue to stay connected with Canada, the rest of the state and beyond.

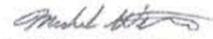
The project would also build upon improvements already made by the Maine Northern Railway, the Central Maine and Quebec Railroad and improvements on Pan Am Railways and Eastern Maine Railway.

An efficient rail system helps our state reliably ship goods and services and makes us more competitive with the rest of the country.

We urge you to support this grant application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

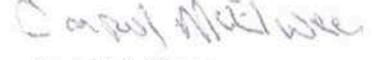
  
Peter Edgecomb  
State Senator

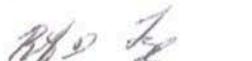
  
Michael Willette  
State Senator

  
John Martin  
State Representative

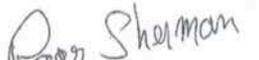
  
Roland "Danny" Martin  
State Representative

  
Anthony Edgecomb  
State Representative

  
Carol McElwee  
State Representative

  
Ricky Long  
State Representative

  
Robert Saucier  
State Representative

  
Roger Sherman  
State Representative

  
Dustin White  
State Representative



## PISCATAQUIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

159 EAST MAIN STREET  
DOVER-FOXCROFT, ME 04426  
(207) 564-2161  
(207) 564-3022 (Fax)

James White, District 1   James Annis, District 2   Frederick Y. Trask, District 3  
Thomas Lizotte, Interim County Manager  
Alma M. Ryan, Clerk Specialist

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx,

The Piscataquis County Commissioners are submitting this letter to declare their unqualified support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation. This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* is a partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This public-private partnership underscores the tremendous importance that improving this rail system has to our region as a whole. The project will improve economic development prospects for the local region while providing a reliable transportation infrastructure system for the growing number of exports shipping out through both our land borders with Quebec and the Maritime Provinces of Canada, as well as our deep-water ports on the Atlantic Ocean. This partnership will provide economic competitiveness while supporting well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for our region.

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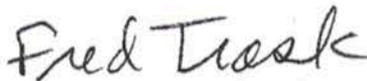
The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along sections of the rail line. The infrastructure upgrade will improve the rail system's consistency and reliability by increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. The project also improves the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by raising the overall state of good repair.

In Piscataquis County, we are especially supportive of the way that improvements to the infrastructure of the new railroad operator in our region, the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, will help leverage our County's assets for economic growth. CM&Q's portion of the TIGER grant, which would include a 40% match from the railroad, would invest \$1.3 million

for the Brownville Junction yard to replace 2,400 ties, install 16 new switches, fund eight miles of face surfacing and 2,400 tons of ballast. The major tie, switch installation and surfacing program at the yard will help to correct decades of deferred maintenance and neglect.

Brownville Junction rail yard is a critically important, strategic transportation asset for Piscataquis County and the entire region of eastern and northern Maine, as even a cursory reading of a map will disclose. Brownville Junction's central location provides ongoing connections to the south and west over CM&Q rail for both the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways. Brownville Junction also supports increased volume from the New Brunswick Southern Railway, connecting the key Canadian port of Saint John, New Brunswick, with the CM&Q system's western interchange points all the way to the major market of Montreal, and both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railway systems. In addition, Brownville Junction directly connects the Central Maine & Quebec Railway to Maine's deep-water harbor at Searsport on Penobscot Bay, and improvements to the Brownville Junction yard will facilitate traffic from Searsport to points west, including the Montreal market and Connecticut River connections on the Vermont Rail System, New England Central and St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad.

Piscataquis County has a long railroad tradition stretching back to the 19th century and centered on the communities of Milo and Brownville, two small towns who suffered severe economic distress with the demise of the former rail operator in this area, the Maine, Montreal & Atlantic. Now that Central Maine and Quebec Railway has taken over, that distress is being replaced by increased rail activity, infrastructure investment, and the hope of better times to come. The *Maine Regional Railways Project* offers the promise that Central Maine and Quebec will put our rail assets to ever greater use, and Piscataquis County and its individual communities are united in our support for this initiative.



Frederick Y. Trask, Chairman



James D. Annis



James L. White

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## Piscataquis County Economic Development Council

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May 26, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Piscataquis County Economic Development Council (PCEDC) submits this letter in strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. In addition, this project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Piscataquis County's connection to rail goes back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The county as a whole experienced growth, financial prosperity, and economic spinoff as a result of the Milo and Brownville connections to the rail industry as "rail communities". Local communities and the region benefited from the boom rail provided; over the years this growth would slow down. The demise of rail under the ownership of Maine, Montreal & Atlantic (MMA), plunged the communities of Milo and Brownville into severe economic distress.

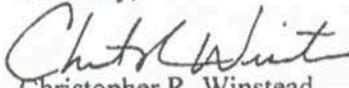
In 2014, the Central Maine & Quebec Railway (CMQR) resurrected rail service to Piscataquis County and beyond, through their bankruptcy purchase of assets previously owned by MMA. Over the last 30 years, previous rail operators opted not to invest in the necessary rail infrastructure maintenance and improvements. Since their acquisition, CMQR has invested heavily in making necessary repairs and improvements; their goal is the expansion of rail service between our deep water ports, Quebec, and the Maritime Provinces.

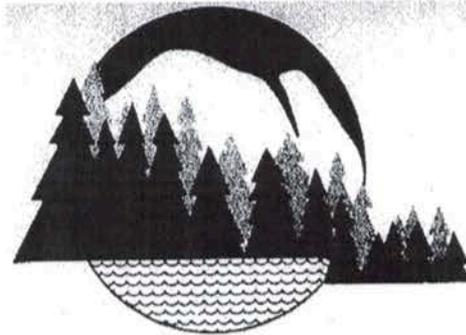
Piscataquis County Economic Development Council is a collaborative focused on promoting long-term sustainable economic development and growth throughout Piscataquis County. We work towards creating a strong, diverse, and vibrant economy that offers higher quality jobs to support strong, diverse, and vibrant families and communities. A vibrant economy requires a diverse base of industry; rail represents one of the major foundations for economic opportunity within our County.

Piscataquis County will see a direct investment of \$1.3 million from this request as part of CMQR's portion of the TIGER VII Grant. The investment in Brownville Junction will replace 2,400 ties, install 16 new switches, fund eight miles of surfacing, and 2,400 tons of ballast. The major tie, switch installation, and surfacing program at the yard will help correct decades of deferred maintenance and neglect.

As we look toward economic opportunity in Piscataquis County, we cannot move the needle without an investment in infrastructure. The sheer magnitude of investment from this request, represents an opportunity to leverage County assets towards driving economic growth. As such, PCEDC supports this project unconditionally.

Sincerely,

  
Christopher R. Winstead  
Executive Director



## TOWN OF BROWNVILLE

586 Main Road  
Brownville, Maine 04414

Phone- 207-965-2561  
Fax- 207-965-8768

OFFICE OF THE TOWN MANAGER

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“Preserving the Past, Creating the Present, Enhancing our Future”

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary,  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The Town of Brownville and Brownville Junction have a connection to rail going back over a century. In 1891, the Canadian Pacific Railway began intercontinental service to Brownville Junction. As a result, both communities quickly attained the status of “rail communities;” residents and the towns enjoyed prosperity, growth and economic boom. Rail ownership changed over the years; with those changes, prosperity and growth slowly diminished. In 2013, we thought rail had met its demise with the bankruptcy of the Montreal, Maine and Atlantic. Luckily, this was not the case. Central Maine and Quebec Railway (CMQR) purchased the lines and began operating in 2014.

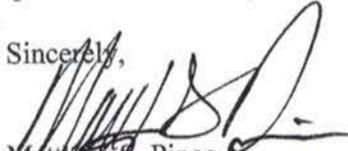
The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

The Town of Brownville and Brownville Junction will directly benefit from the investment in rail improvements. CMQR's portion of the TIGER VII Grant would be \$10 million (which includes a 40% match by CMQR); of these dollars \$1.3 million would be invested in the Brownville Junction Yard. Improvements would include replacing 2,400 ties, installing sixteen new switches, eight miles of face surfacing, and 2,400 tons of ballast. This level of investment has not occurred in decades, and represents a significant opportunity for the communities of Brownville and Brownville Junction.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Matthew S. Pineo  
Manager, Town of Brownville



# Office of the City Manager

**Catherine M. Conlow**  
City Manager  
[cathy.conlow@bangormaine.gov](mailto:cathy.conlow@bangormaine.gov)

**Robert W. Farrar**  
Assistant City Manager  
Human Resources Director  
[robert.farrar@bangormaine.gov](mailto:robert.farrar@bangormaine.gov)

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Bangor City Council I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

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On May 28, 2015 the Bangor City Council unanimously approved resolve (attached) in support of the TIGER Grant application. Should you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 992-4203.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy M. Conlow".

Catherine Conlow,  
City Manager

73 Harlow Street • Bangor, Maine 04401  
207.992.4205 • Fax 207.945.4445  
[www.bangormaine.gov](http://www.bangormaine.gov)



Assigned to Councilor Faircloth



## CITY OF BANGOR

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**(TITLE.) Resolve,** Supporting the TIGER VII Grant Application

**WHEREAS,** the State of Maine Department of Transportation (DOT), in partnership with the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, the Maine Northern Railway and Eastern Maine Railways, is applying for a U.S. Department of Transportation grant under the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) VII round; and

**WHEREAS,** Bangor is the transportation hub of eastern and northern Maine; and

**WHEREAS,** the project to be funded focuses on eastern and northern Maine and seeks to upgrade key segments of the region's rail infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS,** the project represents an unprecedented partnership between the State of Maine DOT and the four private railroads that service the area; and

**WHEREAS,** the grant request is approximately \$36.6 million which includes \$22 million in federal funds, \$14.3 million from the four participating railroads and \$300,000 from the State of Maine DOT; and

**WHEREAS,** the TIGER investment in the rail system will focus on improved safety, reliability, operating speeds, transit time and achieving other efficiencies and an overall good state of repair; and

**WHEREAS,** the improvements will extend from the Port of Searsport through the Penobscot Valley to Madawaska; and

**WHEREAS,** the improvements will provide better service for shippers to the Midwest and Canada through the Central Maine and Quebec Railway's line to Montreal, overseas via Searsport, to east coast markets over the PanAm Corridor to Massachusetts, and the Maritimes via the Eastern Maine Railway; and

**WHEREAS,** support from local government is important in the highly competitive process:

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR, THAT**

The Bangor City Council supports the TIGER VII grant application to be submitted by the State of Maine Department of Transportation (DOT) in partnership with the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, the Maine Northern Railway and Eastern Maine Railways.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BANGOR, THAT**

The City Manager submit a letter supporting the grant application on behalf of the Bangor City Council.

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Town of Millinocket and Town Council, I am writing this letter to convey in the strongest terms our support for the *Maine Regional Railways Project* which is seeking funds under the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII grant program.

The application, which is being submitted under the umbrella of the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT), includes the upgrade of key segments of the rail infrastructure serving eastern and northern Maine through an unprecedented partnership between four railroads: the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

These are challenging times in Millinocket. Much of our economic decline is tied to the demise of the regions paper industry. In the 1970s the Great Northern Paper Company (GNP) employed approximately 4,000 people in the Millinocket area. This vital source of jobs declined significantly over the years through a list of successive owners. Most recently, the 2014 closure of the remaining GNP operations resulted in the loss of over 200 jobs. Today the unemployment rate stands at a staggering 13.2 % (January 2015).

While our challenges are great, there are also emerging opportunities as well. Millinocket is the gateway to the great north woods, and millions of acres of prime forestland. While the information age has resulted in less demand for paper, there are other opportunities for Maine's wood fiber including renewable energy products, construction materials and overseas markets. Millinocket has industrial and buildings, wastewater capacity, power and other core infrastructure left from the GNP era, including rail and a direct port connection in Searsport.

Cost-effective rail service is key to leveraging these assets, however. TIGER investment in rail will provide opportunities to Millinocket and other communities in the wood basket of Maine to access world markets through more efficient rail connections to Canada and the Midwest over

the CMQR, the Maritimes over the Irving railroads, and overseas markets through the Mack Point Terminal in Searsport via CMQR, as well as better service to domestic markets over the Pan Am lines to the south.

If Millinocket is to build on its strengths, such as proximity to the north woods and foreign markets, effective intermodal transport is essential, with rail serving as the spine of the system. Therefore, we support this project unconditionally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Davis".

John Davis  
Millinocket Town Manager



May 21, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

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Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Roger Raymond, Town Manager

Mailing address  
PO Box 6300  
Hermon, ME 04402-6300

Physical Address:  
333 Billings Rd  
Hermon, ME 04401

Telephone: 207 848-1010  
FAX: 207 848-3316  
email:



May 21, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Roger Raymond, Town Manager

Mailing address  
PO Box 6300  
Hermon, ME 04402-6300

Physical Address:  
333 Billings Rd  
Hermon, ME 04401

Telephone: 207 848-1010  
FAX: 207 848-3316  
email:

P.O BOX 218  
MILO, ME 04463



TEL (207) 943-2202  
FAX (207) 943-2785

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Town of Milo, I am writing this letter to demonstrate our strong support for the *Maine Regional Railways Project* which is seeking funds under the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII grant program. The application is being submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT) and seeks to upgrade key segments of the rail infrastructure serving eastern and northern Maine including significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

Rail has played an important role in Milo's history. For decades Milo was host of the Derby Shops, major rail facilities that once employed dozens of workers in the area. This vital source of jobs declined significantly over the years through successive owners. Most recently, the 2013 bankruptcy of the former MMA Railroad and subsequent layoffs hit the area hard. In fact, as of January 2015 the unemployment rate in Milo stood at 10%, almost double the statewide average of 5.9%.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* offers a unique opportunity to revitalize rail service in northern Maine through an unprecedented partnership between the four railroads that service the region. TIGER investment in rail will provide opportunities to Milo and other communities in the wood basket of Maine to access world markets through more efficient rail connections to Canada and the Midwest over the CMQR, the Maritimes over the Irving railroads, and overseas markets through the Mack Point Terminal in Searsport via CMQR, as well as better service to domestic markets over the Pan Am lines to the south.

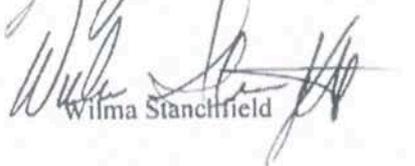
If Milo is to build on its strengths, such as proximity to the Northern Forest and foreign markets, effective intermodal transport is essential, with rail serving as the spine of the system. Therefore, we support this project unconditionally and anxiously await your decision.

Sincerely,

Lee McMannus, Chair of the Board

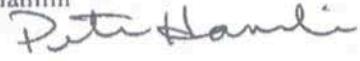


Jerry Brown

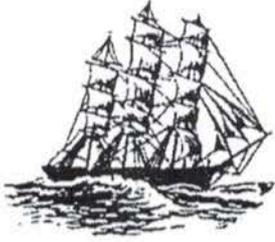


Wilma Stanchfield

Peter Hamlin



Isabelle Warren



# *Town of Searsport, Maine*

P. O. Box 499

Searsport, Maine 04974

Phone 548-6372 • Fax 548-2305

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Town of Searsport is writing this letter in support of the Maine Regional Railways Project, an application being submitted by MaineDOT under the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII grant program.

The project would include the upgrade of key elements of the rail infrastructure serving eastern and northern Maine through an unprecedented partnership between four railroads: The Central Maine and Quebec Railway (CMQR), Pan Am Railways, the Maine Northern, and Eastern Railways.

The Mack Point Cargo Terminal in Searsport is located in the midcoast of Maine at the terminus of the CMQR rail system, and provides an overseas marine connection to the northern two-thirds of the state as part of Maine's "three port strategy". The success of Maine's port and rail systems are inextricably intertwined, as shippers and producers seeking cost-effective intermodal solutions for getting goods from factory to showroom floors.

These rail improvements are therefore vital to healthy ports, export potential, and job creation. Improvements to the rail system will also complement the sizable state and federal port investment in Searsport (over \$30 million) over the past couple decades, including a high capacity \$7 million crane funded under the TIGER I grant in 2009.

The project also addresses some "last mile" issues in terms of improving rail connectivity into the Port of Searsport. The scope of work includes installing 17,400 new main line ties and replacing 18,000 linear feet of substandard 70 lb rail between Northern Maine Junction and the

Searsport Yard at Mack Point, plus installing eight new switches in the Searsport Yard. These improvements will pave the way for increased activity at the port as northern Maine ramps up its efforts to capture export markets.

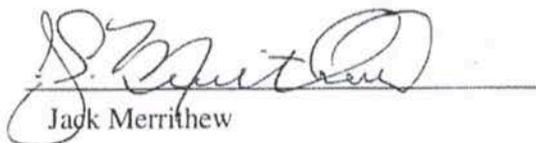
For all these reasons we support this project without reservations.

Respectfully submitted,

The Searsport Board of Selectmen



Aaron Fethke



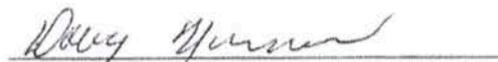
Jack Merrithew



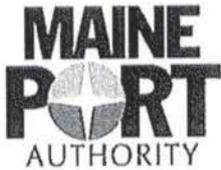
Richard Desmarais



Meredith Ares



Doug Norman



16 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0016

Tel: 207.624.3564  
Fax: 207.624.3251

email: john.h.henshaw@maine.gov  
www.maineports.com

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. It is also a strong complement to the other TIGER investments in materials handling equipment made at the Port of Searsport. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Henshaw".

John H. Henshaw  
Executive Director



185 International Drive  
Portsmouth, NH 03801  
(603) 431-1000

May 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As operator for nearly 110 years of Mack Point, a 140 acre marine terminal in Searsport Maine, Sprague Operating Resources LLC is offering this letter in support of the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation. This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways including the rail yard within Mack Point. This project will decrease interchange time and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along key sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole.

In the last 15 years Sprague and its partners have invested greater than \$37 million into infrastructure and equipment at Mack Point. In 2012 we took delivery of a 140 metric ton Liebherr 550 mobile harbor crane which has allowed us to begin offering expanded heavy lift services in the area of project cargo and expanded bulk vessel offloading services to new bigger non-gearless vessels. Since that date we have seen a continued increase in project cargo trans-loaded to rail as well as a large number of wind energy components delivered to the terminal by rail. The current state of some of Maine's line has prevented us from efficiently increasing the reach of our terminal facility and services.

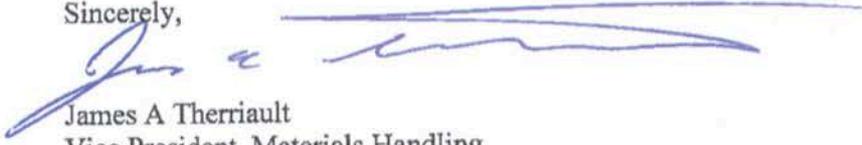
In the area of exports Sprague is undertaking an effort to secure contracts for vessel loading of biomass products, including pellets out of Maine, to feed a growing E.U. market. Working with multiple pellet and chip providers in Maine we have designed and are planning to install a rail offloading system to allow for rail transport of biomass to Searsport. A more efficiently integrated rail system throughout northern and eastern Maine would allow for more of those biomass products to move through Maine by rail as opposed to truck. We have recently taken delivery of a ship loader/tele-stacker and, utilizing an already passed State Transportation Bond, we plan to purchase a Ram rotator for the Liebherr 550 to facilitate the loading of a new class of large gearless chip carriers. This is a very competitive commodity and it is vitally important that our customers be able to minimize their per unit transaction costs to compete against facilities in the Canadian Maritimes.

Lastly many of the commodities we have traditionally handled are destined to Maine companies often as a raw material input to a production process. The current state of Maine's rail has made transport by rail uncompetitive except for customers along the one rail system that serves Searsport. The ability to more efficiently interchange railcars to all four of Maine's rail companies will allow us to move a larger portion of that truck traffic to rail decreasing our customers cost of production making them more competitive in the region's economy.

We strongly support this application for TIGER VII funding and appreciate you making this investment in our community. This proposed public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness and quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



James A Therriault  
Vice President, Materials Handling  
Sprague Operating Resources LLC  
185 International Drive  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



## Seven Islands Land Company

P.O. BOX 1168  
BANGOR, ME 04402-1168  
TEL. 207-947-0541  
FAX 207-945-5148

May 25, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways. These rural areas see significant economic benefit from agriculture and forestry activities requiring transporting bulk products for which the rail plays a critical role.

Seven Islands Land Company also plays an important economic role in this rural region of Maine. Our overall business activities depend on the reliable movement of round wood, chips, and lumber to their respective markets. The rail has played a significant role in the past as an outlet for large volumes of wood chips and some logs and lumber as well. It also provided strategic alternatives to transporting via truck. Today, however, we are not able to utilize the rail as an outlet for our wood chips because of a scarcity of cars available for our use.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. It also improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair. One component which we feel needs to be addressed is the availability of rail cars capable of transporting wood chips. The current lack of availability of these types of cars makes it almost impossible to utilize the rail to transport chips.

Therefore, we support this project with a condition that a portion of funding be dedicated to increasing the number of rail cars capable of transporting wood chips and these cars be made available to all users in the system. This may take the form of seeking out and acquiring available rail cars regionally and/or nationally and/or it may allocate funds for the local manufacturing of cars and be made available to all the regional rail users.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our position regarding the TIGER VII grant application. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



**John W. McNulty**  
President



May 22, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I want to express strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports.

This public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness for the forest products sector and thereby will provide quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region. The forest resources of Maine and adjoining states and adjacent Canadian Provinces need reliable rail to access markets intranationally, into Canada and to capitalize on an emerging opportunity to ship bioenergy to foreign markets by ship.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

David Edson  
President/CEO

Offices nationwide  
info@sewall.com  
sewall.com

136 Center Street  
PO Box 433  
Old Town, ME 04468  
207 827 4456  
fax: 207 827 3641

2317 Salt Wind Way  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466  
843 606 1022



**Northern  
Maine  
Development  
Commission**

5/19/2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert Clark  
Executive Director NMDC



Equal Opportunity Lender/Agency

[www.nmdc.org](http://www.nmdc.org)

11 West Presque Isle Rd., PO Box 779, Caribou, ME 04736  
Voice: (207) 498-8736, Toll Free in ME: 1-800-427-8736, Fax: (207) 493-3108, TTY: (207) 498-6377



May 27, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are submitting this letter to express Mobilize Eastern Maine's strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

Mobilize Eastern Maine is a regionally driven initiative focused on growing our region's economy by supporting our local assets. Our broad vision is to ensure the economy's growth is such that our median household income is equal to or greater than the national average. We are building on our strengths in forest products, tourism, education, and business innovation and supporting the new opportunities in bioscience, business conferencing, and advanced manufacturing.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports. This public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region, supporting Mobilize Eastern Maine's vision.

Sincerely,

*John Moore*

John Moore, Co Chair

*LuAnn Ballesteros*

LuAnn Ballesteros, Co Chair

40 Harlow Street, Bangor Maine 04401

[www.MobilizeEasternMaine.com](http://www.MobilizeEasternMaine.com)



May 27, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Maine Better Transportation Association (MBTA) is pleased to submit this letter in strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII grant application - the *Maine Regional Railways Project* - submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT). This critical project, if funded, would upgrade important portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* is clearly a unique partnership among four distinct railroad companies in the two poorest regions of Maine - eastern and northern Maine- and the MaineDOT. This region desperately needs the economic opportunity that this strong public-private partnership to improve rail in the region will provide. It is critical to the local region be enhanced, and it is equally important that the state and US governments provide a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports through Canada and our deep water ports. We know that the high-paying jobs this partnership will provide will only enhance economic vitality in the state.

My understanding is that this project will improve rail yard conditions, interchange fluidity and also increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. To sum, this project will not only increase the economic vitality in the region, but will also provide safety to the rail lines.

The Maine Better Transportation Association is a statewide association of companies and organizations that plan, design, build and use the transportation infrastructure system in our great state. Our 700 members include rail and bus companies, transportation construction firms, ports, aviation facilities, manufacturers and others committed to increasing awareness about investing in our transportation infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical project, which we support unconditionally. I am happy to provide any further information you may seek.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maria R. Fuentes".

Maria R. Fuentes  
Executive Director

Maine  
Better  
Transportation  
Association

146 State Street  
Augusta  
ME 04330

PHONE: 207.622.0526  
FAX: 207.623-2928  
www.mbtaonline.org

# LEADERS

Encouraging Aroostook Development

May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Ryan Pelletier  
Executive Director, LEAD

RP/jd



PO Box 779 • Caribou, Maine 04736 • Phone (207) 498-8736 • Fax (207) 493-3108



May 22, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We are proud to provide this letter in support of the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation. This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

Our company produces chemicals in Searsport for water and waste water treatment, food and pharmaceutical, as well as other industrial applications. Our facility also serves as a logistics hub for warehousing and rail to truck transfer. We move between 35,000 – 50,000 tons of freight per year over the Central Maine and Quebec Railway and the Maine Northern Railway.

These railways are instrumental transportation assets that our company uses to receive feedstock for our operation as well as ship our goods to market. They give us a connection to the national rail network and provide a logistical benefit that would not exist if we relied solely on trucks. In addition, they are providing the means to grow our business in new areas outside our region.

GAC is committed to the region and to moving freight by rail. We recently completed a manufacturing expansion with a company out of Mexico that represents the first foreign direct industrial investment by a Mexican company in Maine. The products produced will be shipped to the Midwest and southern U.S. These are ideal movements for outbound rail, in addition to the inbound raw materials.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

We strongly support this application for TIGER VII funding and appreciate you making this investment in our community.

Please feel free to contact me (207.548.2525 or [dcolter@gacchemical.com](mailto:dcolter@gacchemical.com)) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'David Colter'.

David Colter  
President/CEO



May 28, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The eastern Maine region has been negatively impacted by significant job losses and pulp and paper facilities closings. However, the supply chain of small and medium size businesses that remain want to expand and grow. The key to their investment strategies and employment expansion is directly tied to logistical systems such as outlined in the MDOT TIGER VI proposal.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Aube  
President and CEO



May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express our strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec, Pan Am, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Bangor Savings Bank, a mutual savings bank founded in 1852, is Maine's largest locally owned and managed community bank with more than \$3 billion in assets and operates from 57 branch locations statewide and on the web at [www.bangor.com](http://www.bangor.com). In its three most recent FDIC Community Reinvestment Act Public Performance Evaluations, the Bank received the highest possible "Outstanding" rating.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John A. Moore", is written over a circular blue stamp or seal.

John A. Moore  
Senior Vice President  
Community Development Banking



May 15, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I write today on behalf of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce, representing more than 800 businesses and organizations in Maine's Penobscot Valley. We want you to know our Chamber strongly supports the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation.

This worthy public-private partnership will update infrastructure critical to our future success here in Maine, including significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

As we transition away from an economy dependent on traditional manufacturing such as papermaking to one that seizes on innovation and taps global markets, these rail connections will be critical. Whether it's finding new markets for forest products, leading innovation in offshore wind power or showing the world a better way to make goods ranging from vodka to toothpicks to laboratory mice, the Bangor region depends on transportation links to the world.

The Maine Regional Railways Project will solidify our place as a crossroads in the global economy, helping us leverage other transportation assets, including our Interstate highway network and our deep-water ports. This investment will also create and preserve good-paying jobs within the transportation sector itself, adding to our region's economic vibrancy. And it will make those railways safer and more reliable, improving the conditions of rail yards and raising the speeds on freight lines.

Thank you for considering this very worthy project. Please feel free to contact me if you'd like to know more about our unqualified support of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John W. Porter".

John Porter  
President & CEO

20 South St., Bangor, ME 04401 (207) 947-0307 | fax (207) 990-1427

[jporter@bangorregion.com](mailto:jporter@bangorregion.com)

[www.bangorregion.com](http://www.bangorregion.com)



*A public-private partnership committed to economic growth in Northern Maine*

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May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

The *Maine Regional Railways Project* boasts a unique partnership between four distinct railroad companies in eastern and northern Maine and the Maine DOT. This strong public-private partnership clearly demonstrates the importance that improving this rail system has to the region as a whole. The project will enhance the local region while also providing a stable and reliable infrastructure system for the growing number of exports via both our land border with Canada as well as our deep water ports. Finally, this public-private partnership will provide economic competitiveness while providing quality, well-paying and sustainable job opportunities for the region.

The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert Dorsey  
President/CEO

RD/jd



May 19, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

The Action Committee of Fifty (AC 50) is pleased to support the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, an application being submitted by MaineDOT under the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII grant program.

AC 50 is a non-profit economic development group comprised of business leaders in the region who have been acting as an economic catalyst for almost 40 years. Since 2011 AC 50 has focused on its "Trade Logistics Initiative" which promotes the upgrading the regions connectivity and infrastructure to support domestic and foreign trade, including rail, ports, trucking, air, energy and information capacity.

In early 2014 AC 50 hosted a "Ports and Rail Summit" attended by over 125 community and business leaders in the region, in response to the bankruptcy of the former Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway (MMA) which served as this region's primary outlet to Canada, the Midwest and overseas markets through the Port of Searsport. We were delighted with the rebirth of this railroad through the CMQR.

The TIGER VII project would include the upgrade of key segments of the rail infrastructure serving eastern and northern Maine through an unprecedented partnership between four railroads: the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways. This is essential at a time when traditional industries such as paper are on the decline in the Penobscot Valley, as tapping new markets will require a cost-competitive intermodal transportation system and public-private partnerships such as the *Maine Regional Railways Project*.

For all these reason we support this project without reservation and urge your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Sturgeon', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andrew Sturgeon  
President

20 South Street  
Bangor, ME 04401



LORING COMMERCE CENTRE

May 18, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

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The project will improve rail yard conditions, improve interchange fluidity and increase track speeds to up to 40 mph along certain sections of the rail line. The improved infrastructure will greatly improve the system's consistency and reliability by significantly increasing the train velocity and removing bottlenecks. Finally, the project improves on the safety of each rail line and the system as a whole by upgrading the state of good repair.

For the reasons stated above, and because safe, reliable and smoothly operating rail service can have such a large impact on economic development, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Very truly yours,



Carl W. Flora  
President & CEO



## Irving Paper Limited

P.O. Box 1900, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada E2L 4K9  
Tel.: (506) 633-3333 Fax: (506) 642-1698

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

MAY 20, 2015

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

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Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deane Taylor

Manager of Systems & Logistics (Representing Irving Paper Limited)

Irving Forest Services

Direct 506-635-7725 Mobile 506-647-1566 [taylor.deane@irvingforest.com](mailto:taylor.deane@irvingforest.com)





## Irving Pulp & Paper

P.O. Box 3007, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada E2M 3H1  
Tel.: (506) 635-6666 Fax: (506) 635-6667

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

MAY 20, 2015

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

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Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deane Taylor  
Manager of Systems & Logistics (Representing Irving Pulp & Paper)  
Irving Forest Services  
Direct 506-635-7725 Mobile 506-647-1566 [taylor.deane@irvingforest.com](mailto:taylor.deane@irvingforest.com)





## Lake Utopia Paper

600 Route 785, Utopia, New Brunswick, Canada E5C 2K4  
Tel.: (506) 755-3384 Fax: (506) 755-6303

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

MAY 20, 2015

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

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Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Deane Taylor  
Manager of Systems & Logistics (Representing Lake Utopia Paper)  
Irving Forest Services  
Direct 506-635-7725 Mobile 506-647-1566 [taylor.deane@irvingforest.com](mailto:taylor.deane@irvingforest.com)





May 21, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am submitting this letter to express my strong support for the U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER VII (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) grant application, the *Maine Regional Railways Project*, submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). This project seeks to upgrade significant portions of the Central Maine and Quebec Railway, Pan Am Railways, and the Maine Northern and Eastern Maine Railways.

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Again, I support this project unconditionally. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael DiBenedetto".

Michael DiBenedetto  
Logistics Manager  
Huber Engineered Woods, LLC

Huber Engineered Woods LLC  
10925 David Taylor Drive, Suite 300  
Charlotte, NC 28262  
800-394-2675  
704-547-9228 fax  
www.huberwood.com