



CSX Transportation
500 Water Street, J901
Jacksonville, FL 32202

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Amitabha Bose
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Eastern Maine Railway Efficiency Project– Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Application

Dear Administrator Bose,

We are writing today to express our support for the Maine Department of Transportation's application submitted under the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program for their Driving Maine's Rural Economy through Freight Rail Efficiency Project.

The project proposes to administer needed improvements to the Eastern Maine Railway (EMR) line through Maine. It consists of replacing worn-out and obsolete rail, crossties, and turnouts with modern and reliable rail infrastructure along 130 miles of rail line from Mattawamkeag to Millinocket, Maine. It connects the state's forest products industry to export markets, supports the creation of new businesses and family-wage jobs in rural communities, reduces transportation costs and greenhouse gas emissions, decreases truck traffic and crashes on rural roadways, and improves Maine and U.S. competitiveness in the global marketplace.

The Project also includes the rehabilitation of existing dormant track to serve the sustainable One North industrial park in the rural Town of Millinocket. The Katahdin's One North campus, a substantially repurposed brownfield site, requires rail service to source input materials for their operations and connect tenants to national and global markets; for example, a sustainable carbon manufacturer, bio-fuel producer and land-based aquaculture facility are examples of new businesses intending to locate there. Projects like this one directly support expansions of existing businesses, many of which desire rail freight service, and pave the way for new ventures that support these companies and manufacturing operations.

CSX is glad to support the Maine DOT's application and appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Livingston
Vice President, Government Affairs

Tony Bellamy
Sr. Director, Design & Construction