

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2018

The Honorable Ronald Batory
Administrator
Federal Rail Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Batory:

We write in support of the application submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) to the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant Program. MaineDOT's proposal, titled "Pan Am Railways Mainline Upgrades and Rail Crossing Safety Improvements," would fund needed infrastructure upgrades and rail crossing safety improvements along approximately 80 miles of the Pan Am Railways mainline in rural parts of central and southern Maine.

MaineDOT is committed to making smart investments in Maine's aging rail infrastructure. This project is specifically focused on improving the safety, efficiency, and reliability of the freight mainline owned by Pan Am Railways between their freight yard in Waterville and Royal Junction in North Yarmouth. Work will include upgrading track and track signal systems as well as modernizing at-grade highway and rail crossings in the corridor.

Through this project, MaineDOT would also address rail safety concerns by replacing equipment that, in some cases, is almost 50 years old. These instruments are crucial to protecting the rail lines and, in turn, the safety of affected communities. In addition, the project will allow MaineDOT to replace bridge decks on eight of the bridges in the corridor, which would increase the safety and longevity of these particular portions of the infrastructure system.

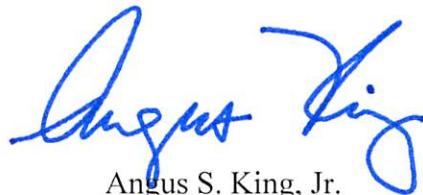
The project involves 13 Maine communities from North Yarmouth to Waterville, and would provide important economic benefits to these communities and the region as a whole. Because many of the affected towns have seen a decline in employment opportunities over recent years, MaineDOT believes the improvements made possible by this rail project would give those same communities opportunities for economic development and job creation along the rail corridor. This includes the expansion of Maine's forest economy, as manufacturers in the state are working to create new products to be used on a global scale. By connecting manufacturers and lumber mills by rail, MaineDOT can help ensure a competitive advantage for Maine and continue the viability of this major industry in the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of MaineDOT's proposal. We encourage your careful review of this application, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, and ask that you please notify Katie Seelen (Collins) at (202) 224-2523 and Adam Lachman (King) at (202) 224-5344 when a final decision 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

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Support for MaineDOT CRISI Grant, *Pan Am Railways Mainline Upgrades and Rail Crossing Safety Improvements*.

Dear Secretary Chao,

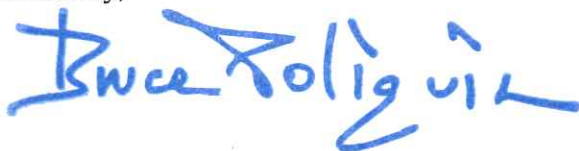
I am writing to express my strong support for the Maine Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Grant application: *Pan Am Railways Mainline Upgrades and Rail Crossing Safety Improvements*.

Investing in Maine's infrastructure is crucial in order to offset a competitive disadvantage in this increasingly global world. Transportation costs are becoming exceedingly more expensive for Mainers. This is important when looking at the future of the forest products industry in the state, which is seeing new growth and opportunities. Safe and reliable rail transportation helps these industries and manufacturers compete in today's economy, and Maine has an incredible opportunity to create growth and new jobs thanks to this project led by the Maine Department of Transportation.

Safety is a vital component of the proposed project. The work will take a large step towards moving the rail line into a state of good repair while addressing at-grade highway/rail crossings and bringing them up to par with modern industry standards. Much of the safety appliances in this corridor use outdated technology with all portions being at least thirty years old and some features more than fifty years old. This updated corridor will add efficiency as well as increased safety.

I fully support the efforts of Maine DOT as they seek funding to upgrade transportation and increase access to safe, reliable rail traffic for Maine. I respectfully request that this application be given the most careful consideration, and ask that you please notify Corenna Quirk, my District Director, at Corenna.Quirk@mail.house.gov when a final decision has been made.

Sincerely,



Bruce Poliquin



CHELLIE PINGREE
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
1ST DISTRICT, MAINE

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, *Pan Am Railways Mainline Upgrades and Rail Crossing Safety Improvements*. The project will go miles towards addressing infrastructure needs across varying regions of Maine, specifically focusing on modernizing and creating adequate rail throughout many communities.

Investing in Maine's infrastructure is crucial in order for the state to remain competitive in this increasingly global world. The proposed project will bring the rail line through this region into good repair and will address the aging infrastructure in the corridor. An important aspect to note is the modernization of at least forty at-grade highway/rail crossings. The safety features at many of these crossings represent technology that is at least 30 years old – with some features dating as far back as 50 years. The proposed work will help to create a more efficient and safer rail line through the region.

The project has the potential to invigorate Maine's economy and expand new opportunities to all of the Mainers living in the corridor. Connecting communities throughout Maine to greater economic prosperity is extremely important. Mainers need to have reliable rail infrastructure to compete and to offset the disadvantage of higher transportation costs in the state. This region, and the entirety of the state, will be better able to thrive with these proposed improvements.

Therefore, I strongly support the full funding of this application. I truly appreciate the work of the Maine Department of Transportation as it seeks to keep Maine's infrastructure safe, efficient, and reliable. Thank you for giving this application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chellie P.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



August 26, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are writing in strong support of the Maine Department of Transportation's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant application, entitled Pan Am Railways Mainline Upgrades and Rail Crossing Safety Improvements. This project will fund rail infrastructure upgrades and rail crossing safety improvements along an approximately 80-mile stretch of the Pan Am Railways mainline in rural central and southern Maine.

The project will bring the rail line into a state of good repair and update the at-grade highway/rail crossings to modern industry standards. It will upgrade track and track signal systems as well as modernize more than forty at-grade highway/rail crossings in the corridor. The crossing safety appliances use older safety technology that dates back a minimum of thirty years with some more than fifty years old. This project will have the benefit of adding efficiency to rail freight and intermodal transportation in these regions along with the multiple safety benefits.

The project will also contribute to the economic well-being of Maine and the region. It will connect rural Maine communities that have seen a decline in employment opportunities over recent years. A variety of industries are now showing an interest in returning to and growing in and around these areas. Forest product manufacturers in Maine are focusing on new products that are in demand in the new global economy, and are once again becoming competitive and experiencing growth. A strong paper industry is welcomed here and will benefit greatly from having reliable and safe rail service connecting the mills and other manufacturers in Maine to the rest of the country and to destinations for export. Without reliable rail infrastructure, Maine industries are at a competitive disadvantage due to transportation costs. The state of Maine, and particularly this area, will not be able to thrive without assistance in completing the capital improvements needed along the rail line.

Therefore, we strongly support the full funding of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Garrett Mason".

Garrett Mason
Senate Majority Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shenna Bellows".

Shenna Bellows
State Senator

Eric Brakey
State Senator

Roger Katz
State Senator

Ellie Espling
Assistant House Republican Leader

Sue Austin
State Representative

Michael Perkins
State Representative

Catherine Breen
State Senator

Thomas Saviello
State Senator

Jared Golden
Assistant Majority Leader

Roger Fuller
State Representative