



TARA G. REARDON, COMMISSIONER

DARRELL L. GATES, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

September 11, 2009

Patrick McQueen - City Manager
City of Berlin
168 Main Street
Berlin, NH 03570

Dear Patrick:

As you know I am excited to partner with you in the effort to submit a grant request for TIGER funding! This opportunity is exactly what our area needs to help us recover from our ongoing economic slide.

Unlike the National economy that has only recently felt the recession, our area has been hard hit by the steady loss of high paying manufacturing jobs since the Pulp in Paper mill closure in 2001. My unofficial count is that we have lost in excess of 2000 jobs in this time frame!

Most recently the Ethan Allen Plant in Beecher Falls, VT, which is directly across the border from West Stewartstown and Colebrook, NH, has closed its production facility. This resulted in the lost of 237 jobs, of which 153 of these workers reside in NH.

Prior to the outright closure of this facility on August 28, 2009, they laid-off an additional 98 employees in March of 2009, of which 49 of these impacted workers resided in NH. This is a total of 202 full-time, good paying manufacturing job losses in the last few months! It's hard to believe that in 2004, this facility employed in excess of 700 North Country Workers!

Please take a few minutes to review the attached document, which will provide you with a breakdown of the lay off numbers from the August 28, 2008 closing. Note the tabs at the bottom of each spreadsheet that provide additional information that may be of additional value.

Because of the job loss in the last twelve months, COOS County meets the special needs test put out by the Federal Highway Administration.

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information!

Sincerely,

Mark J. Belanger
Manager - Berlin