



The Senate of the State of New Hampshire

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August 26, 2009

RE: Tiger Grant Support letter for Androscoggin Valley Consortium Pavement Management Program

To whom it may concern:

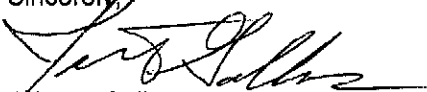
I wish to go on record in strong support of the above referenced application being submitted by the City of Berlin, the Town of Gorham, the Town of Shelburne, the Town of Colebrook, the Town of Milan and the New Hampshire Department of Transportation for a grant for Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery ("TIGER") funding for a demonstration road pavement rehabilitation and management program project dealing with the paved roads in this economically stressed region of rural northern of New Hampshire. This region of New Hampshire, prior to the economic downturn, was already by far the most economically distressed region in the state due to the closing of the major pulp and paper mills which had been the economic engine of the region for a century before. Berlin and Colebrook have the highest unemployment rates in the state.

Because of the economic decimation in this region, the paved streets and roads in the City of Berlin and the surrounding towns have been deteriorating for many years and currently are in many cases in a state of total disrepair. The closest interstate in I-93 some 43 miles distant. The future of this region is highly dependant on a rural road system which much be raised from its current patchwork condition to a reliable system that affords mobility to and through the region. The ability to attract and retain people and businesses is highly dependent on a first class rural road network.

This project will take a "best practice" approach to refurbishing these paved roads to a standard and then managing their continued maintenance in a far more cost efficient way in the future which will result in a substantially lower cost of continued maintenance. These communities will benefit tremendously from this major improvement to their transportation infrastructure making them more marketable to outside businesses and the employees such businesses employ.

This project demonstrates what can be accomplished when the municipalities in a region work together with local state offices to accomplish an important regional improvement which will serve as a model for other regions to follow.

Sincerely,


John T. Gallus