

July 16, 2008

Dave Bernhardt, Director for Maintenance
Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

We understand that the Maine Department of Transportation is considering restoring a crew and supervisor to the Shirley Maintenance Camp. We write to express strong support for this move, and urge you to return a crew to this strategic location. Considering the gaps in service which have occurred since the garage closed several years ago (despite your efforts to improve the situation, which have been partially successful for intermittent periods of time), we feel strongly that a crew in this location is the best fit for the Moosehead Lake Region.

Considering the expected decrease in capital improvement to state roads in future years due to the high cost of diesel and asphalt, our existing roads will likely require ever-increasing levels of maintenance. In addition, the conversion of this region to a tourist-driven economy brings demands for higher-levels of service on existing roads. For safety purposes and for encouragement of economic development, we urge you to return a stand-alone crew at the Shirley Maintenance Camp as soon as possible.

Sincerely;

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