

311099

# County of Aroostook

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DOUGLAS F. BEAULIEU



## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

PAUL J. ADAMS  
HOULTON

NORMAN L. FOURNIER  
WALLAGRASS

PAUL J. UNDERWOOD  
PRESQUE ISLE

January 6, 2005

The Docket Management System  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
Room Plaza 401  
400 Seventh Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: Docket Number TSA-2004-19515 - 134

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing on behalf of the Aroostook County Board of County Commissioners, to support the prospects of an Air Cargo Inspection Facility at the former Loring Air Force Base in Limestone, Maine. This former facility is now managed under the auspices of the Loring Development Authority, a public instrumentality that is charged with redevelopment efforts at the former base.

An Air Cargo Inspection facility at Loring has the following advantages:


- This facility has the necessary infrastructure, including parallel runways, hangar space, fire and crash suppression and aviation fuel;
- Because the location is geographically positioned near the Canadian border, there is a sizable contingent of U.S. Customs and Border agents who can assist with the government's homeland security mission;
- The inspection station would be located in the far reaches of northern Maine, in relative isolation from populous areas;
- The site is strategically positioned, where it can take advantage of international air routes from Europe, the Middle East and other parts of the United States.

The former Loring site and facility is exceptionally well-suited to perform this type of inspection. We believe this facility can play a pivotal role in ensuring the domestic security of the United States from future acts of terrorism.

Docket Number TSA-2004-19515  
January 6, 2005  
Page 2

In closing, we hope you will give this project the favorable consideration that it merits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.F. Beaulieu".

Douglas F. Beaulieu  
County Administrator

Cc: County Commissioners  
Senator Olympia Snowe  
Senator Susan Collins  
Congressman Michael Michaud  
Governor John Baldacci  
Carl Flora, LDA  
Retired General Joseph Tinkham  
Barry McCrum