

STATE OF MAINE
COUNTY OF PENOBSCOT
COURT OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



PETER K. BALDACCI
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BANGOR, MAINE
(207) 942-8535

William Collins, County Administrator

COURTHOUSE
97 Hammond Street – Bangor, Maine 04401-4998

July 13, 2020

Mr. Lee Umphrey
President & CEO
Eastern Maine Development Corporation
40 Harlow Street
Bangor, ME 04401

Dear Lee:

On behalf of the Penobscot County Commissioners, we are pleased to support Eastern Maine Development Corporation's (EMDC) Department of Health & Human Services, Office for Children and Families Community Economic Development (CED) project entitled, "Creation and Expansion of Employment and Business Opportunities in Eastern Maine."

EMDC's CED project will provide technical assistance and one-on-one support to low income persons seeking employment through projects based in the Towns of Lincoln and Millinocket. The Lincoln project will provide individuals with guidance and a link to training in the wood industry, specifically tied to reuse of the wood fiber such as cross laminated timber and thermally modified timber. Connecting people with jobs for other businesses being recruited to relocate to the former paper mill site will also be performed. The second project site, located in Millinocket, will support entrepreneurs that are looking to take a project from an idea to a viable business that will ultimately create jobs. An estimated minimum of 40 livable wage jobs will be created and filled during this three-year project. At its completion, this project will support growth in the forest industry as well as other industries based in Eastern Maine.

In response to the economic downturn experienced in our County, we have made an investment of \$274,507 over four years to fund a full-time Executive Director for the new Katahdin Region Development Board (KRBD). This individual, Michael Elliot, is an employee of EMDC and is based in the Katahdin region to support economic efforts. He will work with the EMDC project staff to promote and execute this project.

Commissioner Laura Sanborn serves as an active member on EMDC's Board of Directors and will hear first-hand about the CED project progress. The Penobscot County Commission has enjoyed a strong partnership in the past including the successful 2013 TIGER 2 rural transportation planning project funded through the Federal Transit

Administration and workforce development initiatives with the Northeast Workforce Development Board and the Department of Labor.

We are supportive of this project which will offer direct services to businesses and job seekers in Penobscot County. Projects like these are essential as we continue to work to transform our regional economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Baldacci", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Peter K. Baldacci
Penobscot County Commissioners Chairman