



EliotCutler.com

September 18, 2013

Dr. Parkinson Pino



Dear Dr. Pino,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding my position on the proposed private East-West Highway from Calais to Coburn Gore.

We must always be open to efforts to jump start economic activity in Maine, but I want to know more about the proposed route for the highway, its environmental impacts and possible alternatives. The required environmental impact statement (EIS) would provide answers to those questions. If the EIS doesn't demonstrate significant economic benefits from a highway that would offset environmental impacts, it may well be that improved rail lines are a less expensive alternative that might make a lot more sense. Without the EIS, it is not possible to make a full determination.

In any event, the taxpayers of Maine should not be on the hook for this private project. That's why I supported the legislature's action to repeal the requirement that the Maine DOT complete a feasibility study.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eliot Cutler".

Eliot Cutler