



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0016

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

GOVERNOR

DAVID A. COLE

COMMISSIONER

November 6, 2006

Scott Cole
Town Manager
19 Main Street
Bethel, ME 04217

RE: Scenic Byway Designation

Dear Mr. Cole,

Thank you for your letter of October 27, 2006 stating the town of Bethel's position regarding designation of roads within town as a scenic byway. It is and will remain the town's decision whether to pursue byway designation for any roads that pass through Bethel.

I am concerned, although that the decision seems to have been made using false and erroneous information. The Scenic Byways program empowers local communities to set standards and plan for future growth along designated roads. The first step after designation is the development of Corridor Management Plan (CMP). All communities along a byway have input into the CMP. Once the CMP is complete it is hoped that the town, by whatever means they see fit, would adopt the CMP as part of their comprehensive plan.

Maine has had state designated scenic byways since the 1970s and federally designated byways for over six years. Neither the State nor Federal government has imposed special requirements on adjacent property owners in this time or has any future plans to do so. Because of the byway status it is hoped that any development would be sensitive to its location, but the state or federal government is not going to insist on such measures. Regulation of development and land use along a byway is the sole responsibility of the municipality. I encourage you to take a drive along one of the existing byways. I am sure you will see that being designated as a byway does not stagnate growth. If for some reason development occurred that negatively impacted the intrinsic qualities of a section of byway it could be delisted as a byway. If this were to happen the municipality would not be responsible for refunding any scenic byway money that was previously spent on that section of road.

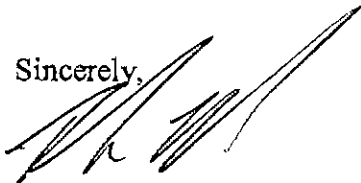
As I stated earlier it is solely the town of Bethel's decision whether to pursue byway designation for Route 2. I would be happy to come up and talk to you, the



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selectmen, or anyone you want to invite to discuss the program in depth. It is my understanding that there is a group that will be moving forward to get Route 113 designated as a Scenic Byway. If this happens Bethel can certainly propose to attach Route 2 in the future.

Sincerely,



Robert LaRoche
Scenic Byways Coordinator
MaineDOT
16 State House Station
Augusta, Me 04333
207-624-3094
Robert.laroche@maine.gov

CC:

Baldwin, 625-7780, Contact: Norman McKenney, Chair of Selectmen
Brownfield, 935-7702, Contact: Steve Gourley, Selectmen
Fryeburg, 935-6008, Contact: David Knapp, Selectman
Hiram, 625-7635, Contact: Eric Noble, Selectman
Standish, 642-5181, Contact: Gordon Billington, Town Manager
Stow, 691-2136, Contact: Selectmen
Chatham, NH, (603) 694-2043: Contact: Selectmen
Gilead, 836-2445, Contact: Fernand Corriveau, Selectmen
White Mountain National Forest, 603-528-8783, Contact: Tom Wagner, Forest Service Supervisor
White Mountain National Forest, 603-466-2856, Contact: Katherine Stuart,
Androscoggin Ranger District, District Ranger
AVCOG, Dina Jackson
Toni Seger