



July 31, 2009

Senator Susan Collins
US Senator for State of Maine
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins,

On behalf of the members of the Saint John Board of Trade, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for the work you have done in support of the one-year pilot program to exempt Maine's Interstate Highway system from the current federal truck weight limit. This issue is extremely important as it impacts businesses on both sides of the border. It is also an issue we have advocated on for a number of years.

Presently, the Interstate 95 north of Augusta is limited to the federal weight restriction of 80,000 lbs. In Canada, however, the weight is set at 100,000 lbs. This discrepancy has led to inconsistency and inefficiency in the shipment of goods across the border. The increase in weight restrictions for transport trucks will decrease in overall fuel consumption and increase the efficiency and safety of transporting various goods. Local companies, in Saint John, have experienced a hindrance to growth because of this. It has been cheaper for some of our members to ship to Europe than the United States due to these weight restrictions. Your work is greatly appreciated by our members and businesses on the New Brunswick side of the border!

The Saint John Board of Trade is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 1,000 members, representing 600 small, medium, and large businesses and organizations and therefore, the interests of more than 30,000 citizens, the Board is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.

We look forward to a positive response from the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Craig
Chair

Imelda Gilman
President

