



Honourable Lloyd Hines
Transportation and Active Transit
P.O. Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2N2

March 2, 2021

Sent Via Email

Re: Revitalization of Railway between Cape Breton and Truro

Dear Minister,

The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce is writing to you today to convey our support for the revitalization of the Cape Breton-Nova Scotia rail line. Revitalization of the rail line is the last significant piece of work that needs to be completed ahead of the proposed Novaporte development in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

The Novaporte project is a three-phase development that is capable of handling 3.2M containers, and with an additional 300 acres for processing vehicles and equipment, Novaporte will have substantial throughput capacity. Beyond the scale of its port facilities, Novaporte intends to further its economic reach with a 1,250-acre portside logistics park, making it the largest such logistics zone anywhere on the eastern seaboard. Both the port and park facilities will be directly connected by 33,000 feet of on-dock rail to North America via the Cape Breton-Nova Scotia Railway.

Upon completion, Novaporte intends to be the largest port and logistics hub on Canada's east coast connected by rail to North America. Through its location in Sydney, Nova Scotia, Novaporte would be the first port of call for Ultra Large Container Vessels coming off the Great Circle Route from Asia, Africa, and Europe, connecting their cargos to Montreal, Newfoundland, the Arctic, and the East Coast US via direct transshipment routes, and Canada to the US Midwest by rail.

Resumption of reliable freight rail service across Cape Breton Island would be a significant development to the expansion of international trade within our region. Rail is a key piece of connectivity within the scope of the Novaporte project and will be a necessary contributor to its success. Rail also has the potential to have an impact on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. Moving cargo and people by rail is among the most efficient methods of transportation. Moving freight by rail produces roughly 8 times fewer CO2 emissions per Ton-Mile than by shipping by air, and roughly 1.5 times fewer emissions than by truck.

We believe that rail is vital to our region and will be a significant contributor to economic activity as we move forward into the future. The Atlantic Chamber is requesting that the Government of Nova Scotia support the revitalization of the Cape Breton-Nova Scotia rail line.

The restored line will position Nova Scotia as a gateway to the rest of Canada and the United States that will facilitate new international market access for a wide range of local products and the potential to dramatically increase multilateral bulk trade

Sincerely,

Sheri Somerville
CEO, Atlantic Chamber of Commerce

CC: Premier Iain Rankin
Hon. Geoff MacLellan