



MONTANA CRAFT MALT

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June 24, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington D.C., 20590

RE: City-County of Butte-Silver Bow and Port of Montana 2019 BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing on behalf of Montana Craft Malt Company to express our strong support for the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow and the Port of Montana's 2019 BUILD transportation grant application to secure funding for vital rail and road expansion.

A \$7.7 Million investment of BUILD funds will help leverage \$1.4 Million of local match dollars. These funds will compliment an additional \$7.2 Million of local investment in transloading, storage, lead and spur tracks planned in the next 3-6 months. With the help of BUILD funds, the final development phase for the area will be able to break ground in early 2020, having significant impact on commerce and transportation options throughout Montana and the region.

Located at the intersection of two interstate highways and two Class I railroads, the Port of Montana and Montana Connections Business Development Park are ideally located for manufacturing and transportation. Current rail capacity is limiting activities at the Port of Montana and forcing them to turn down new business opportunities. Additionally, the lack of rail served industrial sites within the Montana Connections Park has restricted what types of companies and operations they are able to attract. Completing this project will alleviate both restrictions and allow both entities to reach their full potential.

Montana Craft Malt chose the Montana Connections Business Development Park specifically for its unique access to rail and interstate. Our business will freight out over 22,000,000 pounds of malted barley each year to customers reaching as far as Mexico and Asia. Access to these markets via streamlined shipping is the central competitive advantage of our company, as I'm sure it can be for many other Montana companies whose businesses are dependent on sending Montana's goods beyond its borders.

We strongly urge your approval of this grant application. Additional infrastructure will assist current Montana shippers and encourage business investment resulting in new job creation and economic benefits for the region.

Sincerely,

Jennifer O'Brien

President, Montana Craft Malt Company