



THE CITY-COUNTY OF
Butte-Silver Bow

Planning Department

Lori Casey, Director

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May 6, 2020

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 2020 BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing on behalf of the Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board and staff to express our strong support for the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow and the Port of Montana's 2020 BUILD transportation grant application to secure funding for vital rail and road expansion.

A \$6.4 Million investment of BUILD funds will help leverage \$2.4 Million of local match dollars. These funds will compliment an additional \$7.0 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 2021, 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.

The City-County of Butte-Silver Bow has made every effort to develop Montana Connections as a first-class industrial park. The park offers incredible infrastructure such as industrial water, potable water, wastewater line and three phase power; all with plenty of capacity to serve the various types of industrial entities. Securing the BUILD funds will allow the park to complete the remaining necessary infrastructure to diversify and expand recruitment through the ability to offer rail served industrial sites. In addition, the funds will help to alleviate the restrictions at the Port of Montana, a full service transload facility, and allow them to take on new business opportunities.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lori Casey".

Lori Casey
Planning Director