



THE CITY-COUNTY OF  
Butte-Silver Bow

Office of the Chief Executive

Dave Palmer, Chief Executive

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May 14, 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 the Port of Montana 2020 BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) and the Port of Montana, we are pleased to submit this *Montana Connections Rail and Road Expansion* grant application for FY2020 BUILD funding consideration. BSB and the Port of Montana will coordinate and oversee the \$6.4 Million funding request and have committed \$2.4 Million as match to these efforts.

Montana Connections Business Park is a unique mega industrial park located just six miles west of Butte. Community leaders recognized the potential economic impact this area would have on the local and state economy when they designated it a tax-increment district thirty years ago. Since its inception, over \$50 Million in infrastructure improvements have been made to develop the area and the adjacent Port of Montana.

The area's physical location at the intersection of two interstate highways and two Class I railroads offers efficient freight and road transportation options to numerous industries. BSB is also the grantee for Foreign Trade Zone #274 and the Port of Montana is a subzone with a General Purpose Warehouse—the only one within a five-state radius in the Rocky Mountain Region.

Montana Connections has an additional 900 acres available for industrial development ideally suited for rail-served parcels. This is the perfect opportunity to take advantage of the significant local investment made to date. Along with a tax increment provision (set to sunset in 2022), we will leverage federal and local funds to help this area reach its full potential. As funding applications are evaluated, please carefully consider the merits of this project and understand that it has the full support of myself, the BSB Council of Commissioners and the Port of Montana Board. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dave Palmer in black ink.

Dave Palmer  
Chief Executive, BSB

Handwritten signature of Kathy Fasso in blue ink.

Kathy Fasso  
General Manager, Port of Montana