

United States Senate

July 9, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: 2019 BUILD: Montana Connections Rail and Road Expansion

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of the application by the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow (BSB) and the Port of Montana to complete the funding necessary for rail and road expansion at the Port of Montana and Montana Connections Business Development Park (Montana Connections).

The proposed project will increase trans-load capacity at the Port of Montana and bring rail access to an additional 130 acres of property in Montana Connections, a designated industrial park with a tax increment provision established to foster economic growth and bring new businesses into southwest Montana. To-date, 600 jobs have been created by the development of 530 acres in the industrial park.

In total, 22,500 feet of track will be constructed to expand and complement existing infrastructure. Road construction will bring vehicle access to an additional ten parcels of Montana Connections. High-speed fiber connections will improve broadband services for current tenants of the park and add to the marketability of available parcels. The two phases will be in addition to two track projects that are anticipated to begin construction in summer/fall of 2019. There will be 5,000 feet of transload track added to the Port site and 11,000 feet of storage, lead and spur track added to Montana Connections.

Thank you for your attention to this application. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also appreciate you informing my office of the eventual decision on this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator