

June 27, 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 Amazing Life Products 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.

As a Montana owned business, logistics can be difficult due to limited number of transportation hubs throughout the state. We have cooperated with the Port of Montana for the past 4 years with great success. Although with the shortage of storage space it has forced us to use out of state option for storage for some of our inventory. This has lead to increased cost of doing business in Montana. So the additional storage and improved transloading capabilities would allow us to improve our supply chain operation and allow us to increase the number of jobs we are able to create. We are excited for the possibilities and plans for expansion.

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 cursive script, appearing to read "Gary Wood". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".