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United States Senate

May 5, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow and the Port of Montana's 2020 BUILD application to secure funding for vital rail and road expansion. This \$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 three to six 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 the 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. Additional infrastructure will assist current Montana shippers and encourage business investment resulting in new job creation and economic benefits for the region.

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

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