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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

AGRICULTURE
VICE CHAIRMAN
Chairman, Subcommittee on Nutrition
EDUCATION & THE WORKFORCE
NATURAL RESOURCES

October 19, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

Please accept this letter as my strong support of Butler County's application to the U.S. Department of Transportation for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant for the Gateway 228 Project.

This 26-mile freight and commuter corridor (Gateway 228) is the most critical connection between Butler County's rural and suburban residents and emerging regional employment opportunities. Since usage of Route 228 has exceeded capacity and can no longer accommodate the influx of users from southern Butler County's hot real estate and employment markets, including the \$6 billion ethane cracker plant currently under construction in adjoining Beaver County, this project is a number one priority.

More than \$28 billion worth of commodities are exported via the corridor annually and over 52,000 vehicles travel this route daily. In the rural areas of Gateway 228, there are 2,084 businesses that ship over \$1.013 billion worth of goods annually and more than 122 of those businesses are farms or farm product companies that ship nearly \$13.3 million worth of commodities. As a strong supporter of this project, I respectfully request that Butler County's application for the BUILD Discretionary Grant Program be given very serious and thoughtful consideration.

As always, if I can be of assistance to you in any way with this important matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

GT:pa