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July 17, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce would like to express our support for Butler County's funding application through the U.S. Department of Transportation – Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant Program for the Gateway 228 Project. Recognizing the importance of a reliable transportation network system to the economic development of a region, Butler County is proposing critical transportation improvements along the Route 228 Corridor.

In recent years, southern Butler County has experienced immense growth, particularly along Route 228. This 26-mile economic thread is the County's primary link between several burgeoning economic activity centers – southern Butler County, the fastest growing community in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Shell Chemical's \$6 billion ethane cracker plant in neighboring Beaver County. Butler County is seeking BUILD funds to address the most significant transportation challenges along Route 228 – inadequate capacity, excessive number of crashes and fatalities, and lack of access to key employment centers, schools, and residential neighborhoods. Due to the County's rural setting, a reliable and safe roadway network is vital to economic development and job growth. The requested funds will create new opportunities to connect rural residents to suburban employment centers, impacting the flexibility and mobility of the workforce. A well-developed roadway network and reliable road infrastructure are important prerequisites for economic development and competitiveness.

Because of the regional significance of the Gateway 228 Project to our communities and businesses, I would like to offer our support for Butler County's funding request. Thank you in advance for considering this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Smith", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Matt Smith, President
Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce