

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

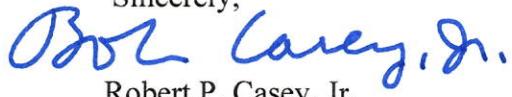
I write in support of the application submitted by Butler County for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation. This funding will support the GATEWAY 228 Project in Butler County, PA. I urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration.

Butler County has experienced immense growth in recent years, particularly along Route 228. This 24-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. Recognizing the importance of a reliable transportation network system to the economic development of the region, Butler County is proposing critical transportation improvements along two areas of the Route 228 Corridor.

The requested funding will be used to address the most significant transportation challenges along Route 228. These challenges include inadequate capacity, excessive number of crashes and fatalities, and lack of access to key employment centers, schools, and residential neighborhoods. The GATEWAY project will provide better linkages between the area's rural communities and assets, encouraging further job creation and economic development for the region. A well-developed roadway network and reliable road infrastructure is an important prerequisite for economic development and competitiveness and the GATEWAY 228 Project is an integral component of the Butler County's community effort to strengthen its infrastructure and its economy.

Thank you in advance for the consideration of my views. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator