

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for Butler County's funding application through the U.S. Department of Transportation – the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Discretionary Grant Program for the Gateway 228 Capacity & Safety Improvements - Final Segments. Recognizing the importance of a reliable transportation network system to the economic development of a region, Butler County is proposing the completion of critical transportation improvements along the areas of the Route 228 Corridor. Butler County recently received a BUILD grant to complete a portion of the 228 Corridor and the INFRA funding will complete the missing link of this critical transportation corridor.

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. Butler County is seeking INFRA 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 is an important prerequisite for economic development and competitiveness.

Please include this letter in the official record of 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