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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

March 4, 2019

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

RE: Gateway 228 Capacity & Safety Improvements - Final Segments Butler Count, PA

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to give my full 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. Completion of these critical transportation improvements will greatly benefit the economic development of the area.

Butler County was awarded a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to complete a portion of the 228 Corridor. Receiving the INFRA grant would complete the entire 228 Corridor project. Due to massive economic development growth in the area this project is necessary. Route 228 links Southern Butler County, the fastest growing community in Pennsylvania, with Shell Chemical's \$6 billion ethane cracker plant in Beaver County. A reliable roadway is essential to connect rural residents to suburban employment centers. Another major concern is the safety of the roadway. Due to the lack of capacity on Route 228 there have been an increased number of crashes and fatalities. INFRA funds will address the safety concerns of this Route and better join rural Butler County residents to the suburban areas they frequent for business and for pleasure.

Thank you for your consideration of this important application. I respectfully request that you keep my office informed of the status of this grant application.

Sincerely,

Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress

GT/av

cc: Mark Gordon, Butler County Economic Development and Planning

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