



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 27, 2019

Washington, DC 20515

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

**RE: Gateway 228 Capacity & Safety Improvements - Final Segments
Butler County, Pennsylvania**

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for Butler County's funding application through the U.S. Department of Transportation for 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 Butler 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, competitiveness, and safe travel; as such, I am enthusiastic to offer my support for Butler County's INFRA application.

Recognizing the regional impact of the proposed transportation improvements, I am pleased to offer my personal support for Butler County's funding request. Thank you in advance for considering Butler's Project. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact my staffer Marci Mustello, at my Butler District Office at (724)-282-2557. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress