



PO Box 704 Washburn, WI 54891

June 29, 2018

Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Building All Season Economic Development (BASED) in Bayfield County, WI

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation (BCEDC) supports the application of Bayfield County, Wisconsin for a US DOT BUILD grant in 2018. Bayfield County is a rural community in NW Wisconsin.

Our community places a very high priority on transportation infrastructure. It is critical to maintain roads in order to support our forest and tourism industries.

Reconstruction of County Highway A from Iron River to Highway N and then west to Highway 27 will provide year-round transportation options for forestry and construction work in a crucial part of Bayfield County. Bayfield County is the second largest county in Wisconsin covering 1500 square miles. Highway 63, located on the eastern side of the county is currently the only All-Season highway going south of US 2 in the County. Presently all county roads are closed to heavy traffic for approximately 75 days a year as frost comes out of the ground and road bans are in place.

Improvements on this existing county highway will support commerce, economic development opportunities and improve safety for county residents, visitors and travelers through improved construction standards and increased durability.

The BCEDC recognizes the significance Highways A and N provide to the region's economy. This road improvement will create immediate savings for local business and improve revenue streams for local government benefitting from year-round access on these two county highways. **Although the BCEDC operates under limited annual budgets, our organization pledges \$500.00 to partner on this BASED project, should it be awarded to Bayfield County.**

Please fund Bayfield County's BASED in Bayfield BUILD project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scottie Sandstrom". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scottie Sandstrom
Executive Director
Bayfield County Economic Development Corporation