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July 18, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Building All Season Economic Development (BASED),
Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Funding
Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, we are pleased to submit this letter of support for Bayfield County's grant application to help fund their Building All Season Economic Development (BASED) Project under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program.

The proposed project will improve 22-miles of roadway to provide the local forest industry year-round access to the county's forests and increase the overall roadway safety. The southern segment of County Highway A and the western segment of County Highway N provide access to nearly 30% of the forest lands within the county. During spring thaws however, the road's foundation is unable to support heavy loads. As a result, for approximately two months of every year the county must impose weight limits which prevent logging trucks from accessing the forest lands.

The BASED project proposal includes plans for reconstructing the roads to ensure they are usable all year. The improvements will address the pavement and shoulders which will improve safety, rideability and all-season access for trucking. These improvements will create immediate savings for local businesses thereby strengthening the county's rural communities.

This project's improvements are consistent with the BUILD program's goals and those of our organization. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is responsible for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods throughout the state of Wisconsin. The proposed transportation improvements in this application will greatly improve safety, the mobility of commercial traffic and rural economic growth in Bayfield County.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Dave Ross", written over a blue circular stamp or seal.

Dave Ross
Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation