

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

A key aspect of economic development in West Virginia is the continual improvement of its infrastructure system, and as businesses continue to move to the State, traffic must be able to flow as unencumbered as possible. We therefore encourage you to review and approve of the Interchange Justification Report (IJR) that was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for the proposed Harmony Grove Interchange (the Proposed Interchange) as quickly as possible.

The Proposed Interchange would provide for a significant increase in economic activity at the Morgantown Industrial Park (MIP). In particular, it would expand and add to exits along the I-79 regional corridor, which connects the area to both Charleston, WV and Erie, PA, so that the interstate can meet future passenger vehicle and truck capacity needs and ensure that it's serving the needs of the community.

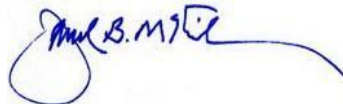
For example, one company that is seeking to plant its roots at the MIP is expected to operate up to 100 trucks daily. This company's investment is especially important as it will bring over \$200 million in clean manufacturing investments to the region and provide several hundred jobs to offset previous plant closures. There are several additional potential expansions to the MIP, too, that would require direct access to I-79, and the Proposed Interchange would alleviate issues with trucks traveling directly through the city and surrounding University area.

As such, with an expeditious review of the IJR, the MIP can truly become a multimodal facility, as it already has both rail and barge access, and bring further economic prosperity to the region. Thank you for your attention to this matter and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

CC: Ms. Stephanie Pollack, Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration