

United States Senate

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COMMITTEES
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July 2, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20003-3660

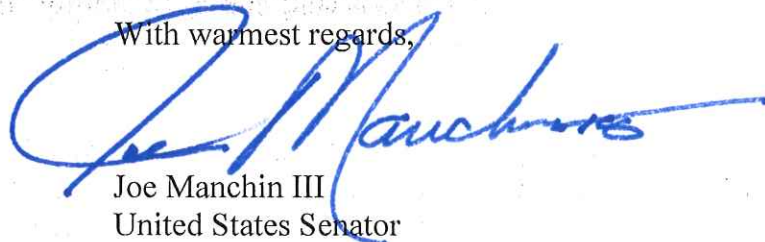
Dear Secretary Chao,

I have been alerted that West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is submitting an application to the U.S. Department of Transportation under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Grant Program.

I write to offer my support for the WVDOH and this application. I understand that, if approved, funding provided by this opportunity will be utilized for a lane widening project on Interstate 64, a critical route for travel and commerce in the Appalachian region, and one of the most traveled sections of roadway in West Virginia. Specifically, this \$265 million, 3.79 mile widening project will improve interchange traffic operations, enhance safety and facilitate economic growth in accordance with regional and local land use planning. It will result in less congestion and a more efficient transportation route. The WVDOH is committed to providing the local match in the amount of \$175 million with financing through the anticipated 2019 General Obligation Bond Sale with the remaining through other eligible federal funds.

I greatly appreciate your noting my strong interest in this application and providing it a full and fair review. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development, I know how important continued infrastructure improvements are to our nation's transportation system and how vital the BUILD program is to accomplishing that. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

With warmest regards,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator