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February 24, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in strong support of the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application submitted by the City of Tulsa – Rogers County Port Authority to fund the Rural Area Rail Switching Operations and Industrial Park Lead Enhancement Project. Located in Rogers County, Oklahoma, this project is part of a multi-jurisdictional, public-private partnership to construct and improve the transportation and utility infrastructure in support of a two million square foot manufacturing and distribution facility being constructed at an industrial site in a rural part of southern Rogers County.

The INFRA grant funding would provide rail infrastructure required for the safe and more-efficient freight rail switching operations and deliver ready infrastructure for industries locating to the area. More specifically, the improvements include critical upgrades to current at-grade crossings and the needed replacement of undersized rail and an existing mainline manual switch turnout. This project would also enable the construction of new tracks along existing rights-of-way and allow the industrial lead to connect with the Union Pacific Wagoner Subdivision. Funding provided by this grant would address an existing need and greatly contribute to the region's ongoing efforts to diversify the local economy and create new job opportunities.

I commend the City of Tulsa - Rogers County Port Authority and their local partners including the Port of Catoosa and the Indian Nations Council of Governments (INCOG) on their efforts to coordinate and recognize challenges associated with freight rail operations and develop solutions that address private sector needs and expand access to the nation's freight rail system.

I urge your strong consideration for this important project that would have real economic benefits locally in Rogers County and the surrounding region. Please contact Dan Hillenbrand in my office at Dan_Hillenbrand@inhofe.senate.gov or (202) 224-2302 if you need any further assistance. Thank you.

Sincerely,



James M. Inhofe
United States Senate