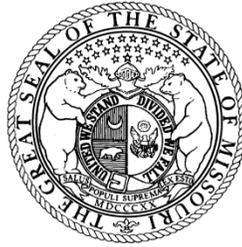


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**MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Travis Fitzwater**

State Representative  
District 49

United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE,  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Support of BUILD Grant application  
City of Jefferson of Behalf of the Pending Heartland Port Authority of Central Missouri

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of the Cole and Callaway counties and City of Jefferson consortium’s application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant from the United States Department of Transportation. The grant would be utilized by the consortium for preliminary planning and design work to support a regional port authority located in Cole and Callaway counties, respectively.

With approval from the Missouri Department of Transportation to form a regional port authority in September of 2018, the consortium would continue working aggressively to acquire property for the construction and enhancements of infrastructure to encourage private investment at both the identified north and south port sites. The port project would greatly enhance existing commerce, assist in attracting new market opportunities to the mid-Missouri area, and assist in easing freight traffic flow on all primary and secondary highways and roads in central Missouri.

The Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce is currently facilitating, on behalf of the consortium, the preliminary planning efforts and the submittal of a BUILD grant application to the United State Department of Transportation for design funding for the Port Project. To date, the consortium has authorized the use of local public funds as a match for the 20 percent local match required by the BUILD grant program.

I respectfully request your approval of the enclosed BUILD grant application request to support the efforts of Cole and Callaway Counties and the City of Jefferson in forming a regional port authority in Mid Missouri. This is a project that would be hugely positive for my constituents and the region as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Travis Fitzwater".

Travis Fitzwater  
Representative – District 49