



July 19, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the cooperative efforts by Cole and Callaway Counties, and the City of Jefferson as they are submitting a BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) grant application to the United States Department of Transportation to provide preliminary planning and design work to support a regional port authority located in Cole and Callaway Counties.

If granted approval from the Missouri Department of Transportation to form a regional port authority in September of 2018, Cole and Callaway Counties, and the City of Jefferson 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 within Cole and Callaway Counties, 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 Cole and Callaway Counties, and the City of Jefferson, 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, Cole County and Callaway County, together with the City of Jefferson have authorized the use of local public funds as a match for the twenty percent local match required by the BUILD grant program.

I respectfully request your consideration to approve the enclosed BUILD grant application request to support the preliminary planning efforts of Cole and Callaway Counties, and the City of Jefferson in forming a regional port authority in Mid Missouri.

Sincerely,



Randall G Allen, President/ CEO
Jefferson City area Chamber of Commerce

your business
our focus.