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July 16, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

It has come to my attention the City of Jefferson, in conjunction with the counties of Callaway and Cole, Missouri has submitted an application for federal funds under the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

If awarded, the preliminary engineering and design would begin for the Heartland Port Authority on the Missouri River. The new port site will include facilities on both the north and south sides of the Missouri River and be accessible to the Missouri National Guard and Algoa Correctional Center. The planned rail improvements will make this site multi-modal. The Heartland Port of Central Missouri will be an asset to the flow of commerce within mid-Missouri, attract new market opportunities, and assist in easing freight traffic flow on primary and secondary routes.

The efforts of the City of Jefferson and the Counties of Callaway and Cole to enhance economic development and better utilize river transportation is to be commended. It is my hope you will give their application full and fair consideration.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator