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Tim Ryan

Congress of the United States
13th District, Ohio

Committee on Appropriations
Legislative Branch Subcommittee
Ranking Member
Defense Subcommittee
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

May 14, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to you today to express my support for the Western Reserve Port Authority's application for funding in the FY20 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program. Funding will be used for the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub, a strategic infrastructure initiative to capitalize on Lordstown's location at the intersection of multiple modes of transportation, broadband, and electrification to position the area as the premier regional warehousing and distribution hub.

Investing in this project would help invigorate Northeast Ohio, particularly the Mahoning Valley and Lordstown, areas that were sharply impacted by economic downturns. The Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub will deliver significant improvements in transportation safety, mobility, access, and reliability. Improvements will include an intermodal rail connection at Ohio Commerce Center, an autonomous truck circulator route, consolidation of the current split interchange configuration along the Ohio Turnpike at Lordstown, and a transfer yard for trailers at the Ohio Turnpike Lordstown interchange.

As the Member of Congress representing this and many communities across Northeast Ohio, I am completely supportive of the proposed Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub for a multitude of reasons, specifically how this project would build off the existing investment in transportation infrastructure, and the private investment by companies such as General Motors (GM) & LG Chem, Lordstown Motors Corporation, and TJX Homegoods. As a stalwart advocate for these projects, bringing the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub to fruition would be a sound investment of federal dollars. This investment will solidify Lordstown as a multimodal transportation center and will surely help attract additional investment to the region.

I urge you to give the Western Reserve Port Authority's grant application your full consideration and support as it presents a catalytic opportunity to bring federal dollars to the Mahoning Valley to aid in the region's ongoing economic recovery.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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