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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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. Investing in this project helps 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.

The long-term vision of this project will have a great impact on the community by incorporating technology to maximize the efficiency, reliability, and safety of freight mobility. With the help from this grant, the Western Reserve Port Authority can greatly help the Mahoning Valley and surrounding areas, by aiding in the region's ongoing economic recovery.

I urge you to give the Western Reserve Port Authority's grant application your fullest consideration and support.

Sincerely

Bill Johnson

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

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