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May 10, 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 our company's support for the Western Reserve Port Authority's application for funding in the FY20 BUILD 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 be the leading electrified multi-modal freight corridor in the Midwest, integrating emerging technologies – including electrification, automated and connected vehicles – deployed along regional corridors and in a future-focused yard to address industry needs and deliver significant improvements in transportation safety, mobility, access, and reliability.

Locomation Inc, a Pittsburgh-based trucking technology company, is currently developing its Autonomous Relay Convoy (ARC) system. Over the next few years, Locomation intends to conduct extensive testing of its ARC system along the interstate systems of PA, OH and MI. Lordstown's strategic location along the I76 / I80 corridor makes it attractive as a potential transfer hub for some of Locomation's autonomous operations.

With the ultimate goal of seamless, automated point-to-point delivery of goods by automated vehicles, it is possible Locomation's automated interstate-only ARC system could be integrated with Lordstown's future-focused automated yard activities to demonstrated full point-to-point delivery of freight to local warehouses and logistics centers within the Lordstown's Smart Logistic Hub.

Further, the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub will leverage 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, to name a few.
I urge you to give the Western Reserve Port Authority's grant application your fullest consideration and support as it presents a catalytic opportunity to bring investment to the Mahoning Valley to aid in the region's ongoing economic recovery.

Respectfully,

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CEO Locomation Inc.