State Senator
SEAN J. O'BRIEN
Minority Whip 32nd District

May 14th, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

As Minority Whip for the Ohio Senate, I write to you today to express my strong 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.

Further, the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub 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 to name a few. As one who has been heavily involved in all of the above-mentioned efforts to revitalize our area of the state, and particularly Lordstown, I cannot emphasize enough how much good this grant would do for my district.

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 federal dollars to the Mahoning Valley to aid in the region's ongoing economic recovery. If you have any additional questions about this letter of support, please do not hesitate to contact my office any time at 614-466-7182 or by emailing O'Brien@ohiosenate.gov.

Sincerely,

Minority Whip Sean J. O'Brien
32nd Ohio Senate District