MVMC | MAHONING VALLEY MANUFACTURERS COALITION

Working together to create a 21st Century skilled workforce.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

BOC Water Hydraulics

Brilex Industries

Butech Bliss

City Machine Technologies, Inc.

Compco Industries

Falcon Foundry

Girard Machine

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Kiraly Tool & Die, Inc.

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SES, Inc.

Specialty Fab/Marsh Bellofram

Starr Manufacturing

Taylor Winfield Technologies

Vallourec Star

Warren Precision Products

May 4, 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.

The Mahoning Valley Manufacturing Coalition, (MVMC) was formed to share ideas and collectively champion solutions to address the priority needs of the industry, particularly a skilled workforce. The enhancements that the project will bring to the Mahoning Valley will directly improve multimodal access for industry which in turn will positively impact hiring opportunities. As the Mahoning Valley continues to face high unemployment, investing in job creation through transportation improvements is vital to driving economic activity in Northeast Ohio.

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.

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.

Respectfully,

Jessica A. Borza, Executive Director