America Makes
National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Institute

May 5, 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 in support of the Western Reserve Port Authority (Ohio) application for the FY20 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program. This BUILD proposal will establish the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub, a high-tech transportation infrastructure initiative which will capitalize on Lordstown, Ohio's strategic location to link multiple modes of freight transportation, expand broadband, and vehicle electrification, establishing a premier warehousing and distribution hub.

This project will provide economic stimulus throughout Ohio, particularly in the Lordstown area that has been recently devastated by the closure of the GM Lordstown Assembly Plant. The Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub will significantly improve transportation safety, mobility, access, and reliability through the establishment of an intermodal rail connection, deployment of autonomous truck circulator routes from rail to warehouse, and consolidation of the current split interchange and construction of a trailer transfer yard along the Ohio Turnpike.

America Makes is proud to be a part of the great ecosystem in Youngstown and the surrounding areas. America Makes is the nation's leading and collaborative partner in additive manufacturing (AM) and 3D printing (3DP) technology research, discovery, creation, innovation and development of a workforce ready for emerging technology. Structured as a public-private partnership with the DoD as well as industry, we innovate and accelerate AM/3DP to increase our nation's global manufacturing competitiveness. We are also part of the national Manufacturing USA Network. America Makes supports this application and looks forward to the opportunity to leverage the resources proposed by the team, which would further support an already growing ecosystem through enhanced connectivity, thus leading to supply chain resiliency for the region.

The Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub will leverage prior regional transportation infrastructure investment as well as private investment by GM/LG Chem., Lordstown Motors, TJX Homegoods, Anderson Dubose, FedEx, and several other companies who view Lordstown as a potential world class manufacturing and logistics center.

I request your strong consideration and support of Western Reserve Port Authority's grant application, offering a transformative opportunity to help revitalize the Lordstown area economy, and restore economic prosperity.

Sincerely,

John Wilczynski
Executive Director, America Makes

236 West Boardman Street • Youngstown, Ohio 44503 • 330-622-4299 • AmericaMakes.us