May 11, 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.

General Motors and its joint venture partner LG Chem recently announced plans to invest up to $2.3 billion to build and tool a new battery cell manufacturing plant that would create more than 1,100 new jobs in the Lordstown area.

This new facility will play a key role in GM's journey toward a world with zero emissions. GM is committed to engaging with the community as we develop this project in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Further, the Lordstown Smart Logistics Hub would build off the existing investment in transportation infrastructure, and the private investment by other companies such as, 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,

Thomas Gallagher
Ultium Cells LLC – Plant Director