Village of Lordstown
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Village Council
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Board of Public Affairs
Water Department
Zoning Department
Zoning Board of Appeals
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Parks Department
Recreation Department
Planning Commission
Buildings & Grounds Department

April 16, 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 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.

The Village of Lordstown has acquired title to a former Army facility which has a drive which could possibly be donated to the project to be used as a public road for access to open up commercial or industrial development adjacent to the Ohio Commerce Center.

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. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Arno A. Hill, Mayor
330-978-5045