Board of Mahoning County Commissioners

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County Commissioners

David C. Ditzler • Carol Rimedio-Righetti • Anthony T. Traficanti

Clerk of the Board

Nancy M. Laboy

May 8, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Board of Mahoning County Commissioner's is writing to you today to express our 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 Board of Mahoning County Commissioner's supports this application for the betterment of our community and to revive our economy. The loss of jobs due to the closing of the Lordstown plant has hit our economy and community immensely. The BUILD grant will provide a great opportunity to replace lost jobs and increase revenue in the valley.

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,

The Board of Mahoning County Commissioners,

David C. Ditzler, President

cc: Anthony Traficanti, VP
Caron Rimedio-Righetti, Commissioner
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