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Outrider

May 11th, 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.

This project aligns with our company's mission to drive the rapid adoption of sustainable freight transportation by deploying zero-emission systems. Outrider is the pioneer in autonomous yard operations for logistics hubs. We help large logistic-dependent enterprises improve the safety, efficiency and sustainability of their distribution yards. We've developed an integrated, three-part system, including management software, autonomous zero-emission yard trucks that feature vision-based robotics, and site infrastructure. The Outrider System integrates with existing supply chain software.

We are interested in leading or contributing to the planning and design of the yard of the future at Lordstown and facilitating the infrastructure, vehicle systems and support required for a proof-of-concept demonstration and future scaling of autonomy in the appropriate use case(s) and private yard(s) within the logistics hub. If the project is successful, we project that private investment could be in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars depending on the level of new technology and automation that can scale across the local geography.

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.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:
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