Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are proud to support the City of Springfield's application for funding under the FY 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants Program for Usable Segment IV of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project (Project).

This phase of the Project will build upon years of planning, design, and construction along Springfield's rail corridor that is critical to both the movement of passengers and freight. The Project calls for replacing the existing single-track grade separation structures at 5th and 6th Street with a double track structure and constructing grading and tracks for the rail corridor. These improvements will increase automobile and pedestrian safety in downtown Springfield, reduce train horn noise, and drastically improve access to emergency and healthcare services in the community's medical district. Completion of the Project is also critical to significant investments that are planned by the hospital systems located in Springfield's medical district.

In addition, the Project is part of the Chicago to St. Louis high speed rail route, which offers numerous benefits to train passengers in this heavily-trafficked corridor. With this funding, Springfield will be able to better connect its community while building upon the framework of the State of Illinois' high speed rail network.

We strongly support the City of Springfield's Build application in order to continue the Project's progress of improving this vital rail corridor. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

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