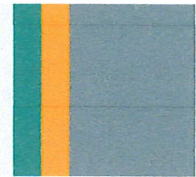


BS GARAGE LLC

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June 22, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Build Discretionary Grant Program Request

Please consider this letter of support for the BUILD Discretionary Grant Request being brought forth by Polk County, MN and Traill County, ND for the Multi-State Regional Connectivity Project. This project will replace the Nielsville Bridge which has been a vital connection in our region.

The closure of the bridge in 2015 has been hard on my business since it cut off access for many North Dakota customers and the traveling public. Since the bridge closure, I estimate that we lose \$300 per day, resulting in a loss of \$70,000 annually. This is just one example of a business in this area struggling because of the closure of this bridge, and I assure you, there are many others suffering as well.

The Nielsville Bridge was permanently closed in 2015 due to structural integrity issues. It was decided to replace the bridge rather than rehabilitate it because the cost of the rehabilitation was not as cost effective as replacement.

Throughout this rural area, our businesses rely on the agricultural community and travelers through the area to sustain our business. However, after the bridge was closed, farmers and travelers alike are detoured away from the town and from our businesses.

A new bridge will restore the customer base needed to sustain my business and the communities throughout our rural region. This project would provide a vital link for agriculture, businesses, and commerce between the states of Minnesota and North Dakota.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

BS GARAGE LLC

