

Debra Kiel
State Representative
District 01B
Pennington, Polk and Red Lake Counties



Minnesota House of Representatives

June 25, 2018

Secretary Elaine Chao
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: FY 2018 BUILD Grant Program

Secretary Chao,

As an elected representative of Polk County, Minnesota, please accept my support for Polk County's 2018 TIGER Grant application for the Multi-State Regional Connectivity Project.

Grant funds will allow the community to replace Nielsville Bridge which closed in 2015 due to irreparable structural deficiencies. Since the bridge closed economic activity in the region has sharply declined. Area businesses report a 20-50 percent drop in revenue which has already lasted for nearly three years.

If Polk County's application is successful, federal funds would be leveraged with non-federal matching funds to replace Nielsville Bridge and return economic vitality to the region. Funds will be used to replace the bridge and modernize roadway approaches to support commercial activity in two rural states. The Nielsville bridge is very important for the agriculture community to move the commodities to the market.

For the above stated reasons, please give careful review of Polk County's 2018 BUILD Grant application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debra Kiel".

Debra Kiel

State House of Representatives

