

**Sen. Mark Johnson**  
**District 1**  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue West, Rm. 2105  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606



**Senate**

**State of Minnesota**

July 2, 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,

Please accept my support for Polk County's 2018 TIGER Grant application for the Multi-State Regional Connectivity Project.

Much is on the line for rural communities in both Minnesota and North Dakota due to the closure of the Nielsville Bridge 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 since the bridge closed.

If Polk County's 2018 BUILD Grant 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.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Senator Mark Johnson