

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



Senate
State of Minnesota

March 16, 2020

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

RE: FY 2020 BUILD Grant Program

Secretary Chao:

Please accept my support for Polk County's 2020 BUILD Grant application for the Multi-State Regional Connectivity Project.

Due to irreparable structural deficiencies of the Nielsville bridge our critical interstate link is impassable. Rural communities in both Minnesota and North Dakota are experiencing economic trouble as a result. Area businesses are reporting a 20-50 percent drop in revenue since the bridge closed.

With a successful 2020 BUILD Grant application, Polk County will leverage federal funds with non-federal matching funds to replace the Nielsville Bridge and rebuild this vital economic link. By replacing the bridge and modernizing the roadway approaches the grant supports commercial activity in two important agricultural regions.

For the above stated reasons, please give careful review of Polk County's 2020 BUILD Grant application.

Sincerely,

Sen. Mark Johnson
Senate District One