

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

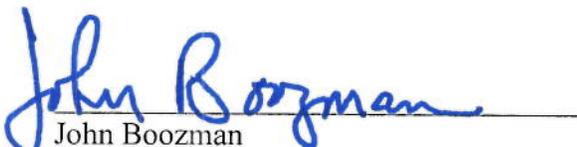
Dear Secretary Chao:

We're writing to express our support for the Improvement Project Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant application submitted by the Southeast Arkansas Economic Development District. This grant would provide funding for the Southeast Arkansas and Northeast Louisiana Multimodal Freight Corridor.

We believe this project would achieve the goals of the INFRA program by modernizing and improving rail safety infrastructure along an important freight corridor, while also improving the regional connectivity of three inland waterway ports. These infrastructure improvements are necessary to provide the port's customers access to the nation's rail network, and will have a meaningful impact on the region's economic development efforts by increasing efficiency and cost savings for regional shippers.

Expanding rail and river traffic, especially in rural America, is vital to the growth of our regional and national economy. This grant will do just that by providing the funds needed to improve the connectivity and efficiency of our rail systems and inland waterways. For these reasons, we agree improving this freight corridor is a worthy project that meets the goals of the INFRA grant program and advances the economic development goals of the Trump administration. We ask that you approve the district's application. Thank you for your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,


John Boozman
United States Senator


Tom Cotton
United States Senator


Rick Crawford
United States Representative


Bruce Westerman
United States Representative