



**Gallia County Farm Bureau**  
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July 13, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao,  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20590

To Secretary Elaine L Chao:

The Gallia Farm Bureau is one of the 86 county Farm Bureau's that make up Ohio Farm Bureau Federation. The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) is the largest general farm organization in the state of Ohio with Gallia County boasting over 650 members respectively. As President of the Gallia County Farm Bureau Board I would like to offer my full support as well as the board's full support of the Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project as presented by the Gallia County Engineer, Brett A. Boothe.

Road Infrastructure is vital to agriculture in any area, but especially in rural Southeastern Ohio where topography can force farmers to spread production over a wide area. This means lots of travel throughout the county to access fields. Gravel and dirt roads have a greater tendency to fail or wash out, possibly causing limited field access. This begins to cut into the farmer's bottom line. Safety is also a concern anytime slow-moving farm equipment/vehicles are on the road, but it's even more concerning when the road surface is not reliable.

By updating all county roads to hard surface, it significantly improves the reliability of these roads. Reliability, in turn, contributes to better accessibility for farmers to their crops and livestock. Also, it allows for safer transportation of equipment, crops and livestock. Improved infrastructure can also open doors for farmers to take advantage of more advanced or efficient equipment that they might not previously considered.

We value our ongoing relationship with Gallia County Engineer's office. The Gallia County Farm Bureau is pleased to provide our support for this project.

Sincerely,

Jake Bodimer  
Gallia County Farm Bureau President