



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Catherine M. Clark, Ph.D.

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

July 12, 2018

Letter of Support: Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection

Elaine Chao,

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection grant submission. The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College is located in Gallia County, but services a much broader region of Ohio and the Southeast Appalachian Region. The potential impact of this project for the region is considerable. We are very hopeful grant 7215 funding will be secured.

Our community college offers a number of manufacturing programs designed to benefit the current and future demand for a skilled workforce within the Appalachian region. Rio Grande is also vested in economic development within Gallia County and the broader region. The addition of the Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection will have a significant impact on the local economy by stimulating job growth, infrastructure and accessibility.

Rio Grande stands with numerous community partners to support this needed expansion and the growth it will bring to our region. We stand ready to assist as needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Catherine M. Clark'.

Catherine M. Clark, Ph.D.

President

University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College