

July 13, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao,
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590



Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing this letter in support of the efforts to obtain grant dollars for the "Gateway Project" through the Gallia County Engineers Office in Gallipolis, Ohio.

In the recent copy of the 2017 Economic Impact Study of Tourism for Gallia County, the Oxford Economics Company reports that tourism made up \$69.3 million in business activity in 2017. It also reports that tourism generated \$8.6 million in taxes. That being said, it is vital that small towns must increase tourism in order to stay economically sound.

Through the development of the Gateway Project, I believe the improvements to our roads will not only improve the health and well-being of our citizens but it will allow our local businesses to further flourish and provide locals and guests to our area the opportunities and product/services they consistently seek of many styles to our area throughout the year. In addition to correcting problems with constant and continuous closures and much needed road repairs.

I hope you give full consideration to this project and see its potential to improve economic growth, marketing the assets of our community

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Crouse".

Amanda Crouse
Executive Director
Gallia County Convention and Visitors Bureau