

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary,

I write to bring to your attention the competitive grant application submitted by Gallia County for funding in the FY18 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Discretionary Grant program.

I understand that Gallia County seeks funding for the Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project, which aims to raise the quality of life for the region's "at risk residents," according to the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Project includes replacing 130 miles of stone and dirt roads with an innovative pavement design developed through a research project with Ohio University. In addition, the project will provide main line fiber connections for secondary road vehicle testing, connecting over 400 square miles of southeastern Ohio, nearly all of which are located in coal strip mine territory.

Assistance from your agency would improve the region's transportation efficiency and residential health. Many of these roads see constant closures, impacting access to jobs, medical care, schools, grocery stores, and emergency response. Such closures disrupt transportation in the region for days at a time, potentially jeopardizing both the local agricultural and industrial economies. Gallia County requests your financial assistance to rehabilitate the region's roads and thereby mitigate the risks their current condition poses to its residents' economic and physical health.

Please give all due consideration to this request. If there are any questions, please contact my grant coordinator, Jason Knox, at (614) 469-6774. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
United States Senator