



July 11, 2018

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Gallia County Economic Development would like to take this opportunity to express our support for the Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project.

Infrastructure enhancement projects, such as this, are absolutely vital to ensuring the sustainable, long-term economic growth of the region and the completion of this project would be very beneficial to both residents and the local economy. The installation of fiber optic connectivity will provide high tech development opportunities for many of Gallia County's underserved areas for high speed internet.

The upgrade of roads to hard surface will not only improve local air quality for residents, but increase access to safety and emergency services by lowering emergency response time.

The return on this investment will be realized by many. The residents of Gallia County will not only have a safer route to travel, but will also benefit from the increase in job opportunities as a result of the infrastructure improvements.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Clark".

Melissa Clark
Director
Gallia County Economic Development

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