



Village of Rio Grande

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July 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the application for funding to provide access and connecting rural areas and farming communities throughout the Southeastern Ohio Region with the rest of the state. This is an effort of the Gallia County Engineer's Office. I am the mayor of a small village in this area, and it would make such an impact on our community.

Successful receipt of this funding would make this area more accessible to the outside region, improve commerce transportation, provide greater support to the farming community, and rejuvenate an area with loss of coal jobs.

I also believe that funding for this project is critical for long-term sustainment of the local economy. It is for these reasons that we ask for your consideration for funding of the Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. M. Easter". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Robert M. Easter, Mayor