



July 12, 2018

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

RE: USDOT BUILD Grant Application for Gallia County and Ohio Department of Transportation for Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission strongly supports the BUILD Grant application from the Gallia County Engineer's Office and the Ohio Department of Transportation for the Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project to replace several stone and dirt county roads with hard surface. Due to frequent road closures of dirt and stone roads, residents are often unable to access basic services. This innovative project will improve the quality of life for residents in Appalachia by making it easier to access employment opportunities, medical care, educational institutions, and grocery stores.

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Huntington, WV-KY-OH Urbanized Area, KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission plans roadway projects that meet the needs of local residents and support regional growth. This project will improve regional transportation access, provide health and safety benefits, and support the tourism industry by providing access to rural areas including the Wayne National Forest.

KYOVA Interstate Planning Commission is pleased to support this valuable project to improve the quality of life and enhance economic opportunities through the Appalachian Ohio Infrastructure Gateway Project.

Sincerely,

Christopher M. Chiles
Executive Director

KYOVA Interstate
Planning Commission

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