

GENERAL DYNAMICS
Land Systems

Gary L. Whited
President

20 September 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in strong support of a joint application by Macomb County, and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan, for a \$130,100,000 Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant for the Mound Road Industrial Corridor Technology & Innovation Project. The grant request would be matched by \$86.9 in non-federal funds from Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren.

Headquartered in Sterling Heights, Michigan on Mound Road, General Dynamics Land Systems is a global leader in design, development, production and support of tracked and wheeled military vehicles around the world.

On a daily basis, our 1,557 employees commute back and forth on Mound Road. Multiply that throughout the year, in addition to the weight of heavy, armored combat vehicles that flow in and out of our facility, and the demand placed on Mound Rd is substantial. Due to its age of 30 years, and extremely heavy travel flow, the concrete roadway is now badly deteriorated and in dire need of a major redesign and reconstruction.

Mound Road has served an important historical role as the "heart" of the *'The Arsenal of Democracy'* region. Many new manufacturing plants were constructed to support America's industrial efforts to ramp-up tank production during WWII to help defeat the German army.

Today it continues to serve as the main artery of Michigan's "Defense Corridor." Mound Road connects General Dynamics Land Systems and the US Army Detroit Arsenal complex. It also runs into M-59 and provides a direct connection between the Detroit Arsenal and Selfridge ANG Base, which is utilized for Presidential and other high-ranking visits. In 2017 alone, General Dynamics Land Systems had the privilege of hosting General Mark Milley, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham and Gary Peters.

At a time in our nation's history where there are ever-increasing global threats, I can't place enough emphasis on how vital it is to ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place to maintain the stability and strength of America's industrial base and supply chain.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your consideration of this regionally important grant application. This grant is a vital component towards replacing critical infrastructure, which ultimately helps to sustain the manufacturing capability to strengthen our economy and protect our national security interests.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Whited

38500 Mound Road
Sterling Heights, MI 48310-3200
Tel: 586 825 7890
Fax: 586 825 7300
whitedg@gdls.com