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MICHIGAN SENATE
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STATE SENATOR

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October 12, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
400 7th St SW
Washington, DC 20024-2585

Dear Secretary Chao:

Mound Road, in Macomb County, Michigan, is one of the most heavily travelled and vital industrial roadways in the tri-county region of metro Detroit and has been so for many years. The concrete roadway is now badly deteriorated, as well as functionally and technologically obsolete. Addressing this problem is not an option as Mound Road is a necessity for the many automotive and defense industry companies located along it to properly conduct business, including the safe arrival of thousands of employees daily. Improving Mound Road directly affects the nation's made in America and homeland security efforts.

The history of Mound Road's importance dates back more than 75 years, when it became the primary north-south connection between City of Detroit/Wayne County and Macomb County, the location where many new manufacturing plants were being constructed to support America's industrial efforts for World War II. Today it remains the primary north-south route and in Macomb County is known as the *Defense Corridor*.

- It is home to the GM Tech Center campus and US Army Detroit Arsenal complex, which includes a US Army Tech Center known as TARDEC (Tank Automotive Research Development Engineering Center). Both are major drivers of economic activity for the State of Michigan and Midwestern America.
- It is a critical connection between heavily travelled I-696 and M-59, which in turn connect to I-94 and I-75, two of the longest interstates in the country. Additionally, M-59 leads directly to Selfridge Airforce National Guard Base, now a major site for defense-related research and development.
- It facilitates easy access between the *Defense Corridor* and the renowned *University Research Corridor*, which incorporates the combined resources of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, and Wayne State University.

I would humbly request your support for the Innovate Mound project so that Southeast Michigan can continue to do its part in contributing to the success of the United States as a whole.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tory Rocca". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "R".

Tory Rocca
State Senator
District 10