

United States Senate

September 8, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in 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 and Innovation Project. This project would transform 9 miles of the 8-lane Mound Road Corridor in the Cities of Warren and Sterling Heights – the 3rd and 4th largest cities in Michigan with a combined population of 265,000 – from a 30-year-old roadway strewn with potholes and a decaying roadbed to a next-generation critical commercial corridor, providing reduced congestion and greater safety for the aerospace, defense, and auto manufacturing employers and freight movement; cutting-edge vehicle-to-vehicle technology for automobiles and trucks; and improved safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit users. The grant request would be matched by \$86,900,000 in non-federal funds from Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren.

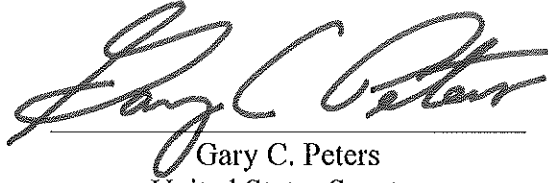
The 9 miles of Mound Road connecting to I-696 and State Route M-59 are a major industrial corridor – with over 81,000 manufacturing jobs in a 10-mile radius - featuring vital national automotive, aerospace, defense, and advanced manufacturing installations, including the Warren General Motors Technical Center, the Sterling Heights Ford Axle Plant, the Sterling Heights Chrysler Assembly Plant, and the U.S. Army's Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command (TACOM) and Tank Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) facilities.

The estimated total cost of the Mound Technology and Innovation Corridor Project is \$217 million. Consistent with the goals of the INFRA grant program, this transformative project will significantly improve the infrastructure – including next-generation intelligent transportation systems deployment - on the Mound Road Corridor, thereby allowing workers and freight to move more efficiently through the corridor to the many nationally-critical employers located there. It will also improve access to alternative forms of transportation by constructing a contiguous bike/ped pathway along the corridor with links to nearby trails and add transit stops to the corridor.

I support this project to replace critical infrastructure and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Eastern Michigan, an area which is working hard to attract and maintain vital manufacturing jobs and build strong transportation infrastructure. I appreciate your careful

consideration of this grant application by Macomb County and the Cities of Sterling Heights and Warren, Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gary C. Peters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator