

United States Senate

June 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C 20590

RE: 2019 BUILD: Missoula Mullan project

Dear Secretary Chao:

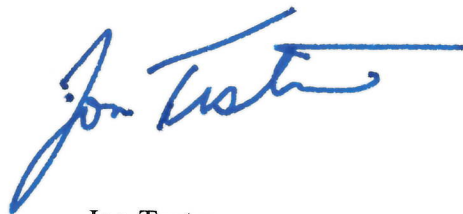
I write in support of the Mullan BUILD project proposed by Missoula County in partnership with the City of Missoula. The Mullan BUILD project is part of a larger vision to strategically put in place the necessary transportation infrastructure needed to address the current demand as well as to support future, smart growth in Missoula – a major regional job center in western Montana.

Missoula County is experiencing a high level of interest from new businesses looking to locate in Missoula because of its exceptional quality of life, robust workforce and access to outdoor recreation. The primary impediment to this growth is a lack of available land for industrial development.

The proposed Mullan BUILD project would provide valuable access to nearly 1,500 acres of undeveloped residential, commercial and industrial land. The extended transportation infrastructure would enable new industry to set up shop in a focused area close by to other businesses and employees. It would avoid the type of leap-frog development that stresses rural roads and it would provide increased and safer options for multi-modal travel. Funding for the project would boost the efficiency of the area's transportation network as well as facilitate the transit of goods and people within the local and broader region.

Thank you for your consideration of this application. If I or my office can provide any information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would ask that my office be informed of the eventual decision regarding this application.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester
United States Senator