



Montana Governor's Office of
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK

LT. GOVERNOR MIKE COONEY

August 2, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington D.C., 20590

RE: City-County of Butte-Silver Bow and Port of Montana 2019 BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Governor's Office of Economic Development we wish to offer our strong support for the City-County of Butte-Silver Bow and the Port of Montana's 2019 BUILD transportation grant application to secure funding for vital rail and road expansion.

A \$7.7 Million investment of BUILD funds will help leverage \$1.4 Million of local match dollars. These funds will complement an additional \$7.2 Million of local investment in transloading, storage, lead and spur tracks planned in the next 3-6 months. With the help of BUILD funds, the final development phase will be able to break ground in early 2020, providing significant impacts on commerce and transportation options for Montana and the region.

Located at the intersection of two interstate highways and two Class I railroads, the Port of Montana and Montana Connections Business Development Park are ideally located for manufacturing and transportation. Current rail capacity limits activities at the Port of Montana and severely limits new business opportunities. Additionally, the lack of rail-served industrial sites within the Montana Connections Park restricts the types of companies and operations they can attract. Completing this project will alleviate both restrictions and allow both entities to reach their full potential.

We strongly urge your approval of this grant application. Additional infrastructure will assist current Montana shippers and encourage business investment resulting in new job creation and economic benefits for the region

Kind regards,

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