

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 4, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for the application submitted by the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development for funding through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program to support the Intermodal Rail Connection Project in Lake County, Tennessee.

The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development tells me the lack of connecting rail service economically disadvantages the Port of Cates Landing in Lake County, Tennessee and surrounding communities. The Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development plans to build the remaining 5 ½-mile rail extension between the Port of Cates Landing and the Lake County Industrial Park, which would provide direct rail access between the port and the industrial park. In 2010, the Port of Cates Landing was awarded a TIGER II grant to improve barge and truck transfer capabilities, and that project was designed and constructed on time and under budget. Taking this next step to provide rail access will attract new businesses seeking reliable and affordable transportation options along the Mississippi River and create hundreds of jobs in this rural area.

I hope you will give all due consideration to the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development's grant application. I'd be glad to furnish additional information, or your office may wish to be in touch with Lucas Da Pieve of my staff at (202) 224-8947.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lamar Alexander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L".

Lamar Alexander
United States Senator