

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

July 11, 2018

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

Re: Washington State Department of Transportation's Rural Rail Rehabilitation Project BUILD
(DTOS59-18-RA-BUILD1) application

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to write in support of the application submitted by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program for the Rural Rail Rehabilitation Project.

The Rural Rehabilitation Project will make critical repairs and upgrades to segments of the Palouse River and Coulee City Shortline Rail System, an essential component of the transportation of eastern Washington agricultural products. This project will replace or rehabilitate 10 bridges, replace 4.6 miles of rail, and rehabilitate 20.8 miles of track. Work on this 298-mile rail system will help ensure the region's economic viability.

WSDOT's Rural Rail Rehabilitation Project will provide safety, state of good repair, economic, and environmental benefits, and I am pleased to support their application. Thank you for your full and fair consideration of WSDOT's Rural Rail Rehabilitation application.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator