



1020 20th Avenue SW
PO Box 940
Minot, North Dakota 58702-0940

Telephone: 701.852.6000
Facsimile: 701.838.2488
e-mail: chamber@minotchamber.org
Website: www.minotchamber.org

July 15, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0002

Dear Secretary Chao,

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce enthusiastically supports the joint application of the City of Minot and the Souris River Joint Board for the 2019 BUILD Transportation Grant related to the 3rd Street Northeast Bridge Reconstruction and Rail Raise project in Minot, North Dakota. This project is a critical component of a multi-jurisdictional effort to replace outdated infrastructure while increasing the resiliency of the community and industry to flooding.

The Minot Chamber focuses on the growth of business and commerce in the Minot region. The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway plays a major role in the region's economic success. As the major east-west freight corridor along the northern tier of the country, the BNSF Railway's Northern Transcon is vitally important to the region, and the project being contemplated by the City of Minot, Souris River Joint Board and BNSF Railway will enhance the resilience of this national asset.

The project is also located in an Opportunity Zone, meaning that investments in this neighborhood will help alleviate economic stresses caused by decades of inattention and lack of investment in this area of the community.

The Minot Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to support this project, which will provide local and national benefit by:

- Increasing the resilience of the BNSF Northern Transcon
- Replacing the 80-year old 3rd Street Northeast viaduct
- Enhancing rail, vehicle, pedestrian, resident and business safety
- Assisting Minot's low to moderate income population; and
- Investing and restoring confidence in an Opportunity Zone

We respectfully ask for the full support of the USDOT in achieving the vision of enhanced flood resilience for our community and industry partners.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'L. John MacMartin'.

L. John MacMartin, CCE
President/CEO