

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 25, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of an application submitted by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants* program for the Washington State Rural Rail Rehabilitation project.

WSDOT is seeking a BUILD grant to make improvements to key sections of the 298-mile state-owned Palouse River and Coulee City (PCC) Shortline Rail System, which is located in Eastern Washington. This project would replace or rehabilitate 10 bridges, replace 4.6 miles of rail, and rehabilitate 20.8 miles of track. These upgrades would improve reliability, reduce maintenance, and increase safety.

The PCC is the longest short line railroad system in Washington state, serving Adams, Grant, Lincoln, Spokane, and Whitman counties. It is located in the heart of Washington's agricultural economy, and provides important connections to Class I railroads and ports. The Washington State Rural Rail Rehabilitation project would ensure growers have access to efficient and reliable transportation to remain competitive in national and international markets, support jobs, and enhance economic development in Eastern Washington.

Thank you for your consideration of the Washington State Department of Transportation's application. Please contact Samara Ressler in my Washington, D.C. office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator