

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

July 26, 2019

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 write in support of an application submitted by the Spokane International Airport for the U.S. Department of Transportation's *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants* program for the Rail-Truck Transload Facility project.

The Spokane International Airport is seeking a BUILD grant to complete Phase 2 of the Rail-Truck Transload Facility Project, a multi-modal freight hub network transfer point. The project would involve demolishing 18.4 acres of the site, installing lighting, water service, sanitary sewer service, stormwater treatment and flow control for paved areas, trans loading equipment, 4.4 acres of heavy duty concrete pavement and 1200 feet of long access road. Additional railway improvements would include approximately 4.3 miles of new trackwork, five turnouts, and a signalization at Craig Road. At full-buildout, the facility would have capacity to accommodate full unit trains or 400 rail cars.

The proposed facility is strategically located in the West Plains, a rural, undeveloped area with the potential to meet the future demands of the Spokane area's growing manufacturing and industrial firms. The site would be served by four I-90 interchanges, the BNSF railway – a class 1 freight railroad - and would be located directly west of the Spokane International Airport. Additionally, the site would be in close proximity to existing aerospace, technology and manufacturing industries.

Washington state, the City of Spokane, and Spokane County recognize the importance of this facility, and have produced a significant local match for the project. The three have partnered to create the state's first ever City/County structure Public Development Authority for the project. Moreover, the Spokane International Airport has an annual economic impact of \$750 million, and this project would allow the airport to enhance its role as a logistics hub. With this BUILD grant, the airport would be able to continue its support of the region's economy by providing more efficient freight transport, decongesting local interstate, and improving the region's economic competitiveness.

Thank you for your consideration of the Spokane International Airport's application. Please contact Flannery Fox in my Washington, D.C., office at 202-224-2621 with any questions.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray  
United States Senator

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