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United States Senate

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ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Secretary Chao:

It has recently come to my attention that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission is applying for funding from the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. They are requesting \$16.3 million for a new bridge and roadwork which would connect the South Lafourche Airport, Louisiana Highway 1, and Port Fourchon.

It is my understanding that the South Lafourche Leonard Miller, Jr. Airport (SLLMJA) is the fastest growing airport in the State of Louisiana. The project would provide an industrial corridor to better connect SLLMJA with Port Fourchon, the gateway through which over 90% of all deepwater oil and gas exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico is serviced.

The requested grant of \$16.3 million represents only 47% of the total project cost of \$35 million. It is projected that the industrial corridor would improve highway safety by diverting industrial traffic from the rural, two-lane, undivided highways that currently connect the airport and port.

I am thankful for the Department of Transportation's consideration in securing funding for this worthwhile project. I ask that you please keep my office informed on the progress of this proposal as well as when a final decision has been made regarding this grant. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michael Eby in my Baton Rouge Office at (225) 929-7711.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator

BC/ME