

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 19, 2018

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

**RE: St. Tammany Interstate 12 Widening and Rehabilitating BUILD Grant Application**

Secretary Chao:

We write to express our support for the Building and Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (“BUILD”) grant application submitted by St. Tammany Parish in partnership with the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development.

St. Tammany Parish requests \$25 million in BUILD grant funding for the Interstate 12 Widening and Rehabilitation Project to eliminate unsafe conditions and bottlenecks along a critically important 3.8-mile segment of this vital disaster evacuation and freight corridor in Louisiana.

Interstate 12 is part of the National Highway Freight Network and Louisiana’s Tier 1 Freight Network, but the segment between Louisiana State Highway 21 and U.S. 190 only provides Level of Service D. Currently, even non-fatal accidents can block traffic in this corridor for hours, and congestion will only grow with traffic forecasts predicting an annual average daily traffic between 104,300 and 126,800 by 2038.

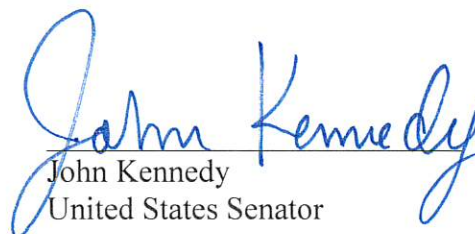
The proposed project will significantly reduce the number of crashes and decrease travel delay. Additionally, the benefit cost analysis indicates that, at a BCR of 8.19, the project investment is justifiable on economic grounds. The project also is well positioned to begin construction by mid-2020 and be completed by the end of 2021.

For all the above reasons and because of the far reaching regional and national benefits of this project, we respectfully request that you give this worthy proposal every appropriate consideration. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bill Cassidy, M.D.  
United States Senator



John Kennedy  
United States Senator



Steve Scalise  
United States Congressman