

**Representative Brad Boles
District 51**

Oklahoma State Capitol
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Room 244
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-4805



Committee Member:
County & Municipal Government
(Chairman)
Government Efficiency
Higher Ed & Career Tech
A&B Health

April 16, 2020

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: BUILD Grant Award for the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan

Dear Secretary Chao,

I have been informed about and am highly supportive of the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation discretionary grant application by the South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), and its partners. Many organizations will benefit directly from Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan.

With your assistance, ODOT will be able to safely and efficiently move freight throughout Southwest Oklahoma, thereby reducing freight bottlenecks and improving oversize/overweight route issues through networks connected to greater Oklahoma and the country. Freight movement is threatened by inefficiencies in the network, projected growth in the years ahead, and a lack of adequate technology infrastructure. The BUILD grant award will help provide planning efforts to safely and effectively move freight throughout the region and will equip and prepare freight networks for present and future technological advancements.

This planning initiative enjoys broad support because Southwest Oklahoma supports many robust freight-dependent industries, including oil and gas, agriculture, wind energy, and military installations. The southwest region is a vital to component in connecting statewide freight flows. The state of Oklahoma transports over 800 million tons of freight annually, which includes 512.2 million tons through, 79.1 million tons inbound, and 99.7 tons outbound throughout Oklahoma. The value of these transported goods is roughly 1.3 billion, contributing substantially to the statewide economy.

It is my hope you and the U.S. DOT will award a BUILD grant to the SWODA in support of its Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan. Your support will make it possible for our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state and local investments in this important region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Boles".

Representative Brad Boles, House District 51
Oklahoma House of Representatives
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd. Room 244, Oklahoma City, OK 73105