

**COTTON GROWERS COOPERATIVE  
ALTUS, OKLAHOMA**

**JUNE 25, 2021**

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
United States

Ref: RAISE Grant Award for the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of **Cotton Growers Cooperative**, in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant application submitted by the South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), and its partners to fund the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Plan.

Enhancing safe, reliable, and efficient transportation of goods both in and out of southwest Oklahoma will strengthen the region, state and Nation's economies through identification and prioritization of projects that will safely and effectively move freight throughout the region and 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.

This Project has a significant impact on the economic development and serves as an opportunity to enhance reliable and accessible transportation which is a key ingredient in transport of goods and commodities throughout this region, state, and nation.

**On behalf of Cotton Growers Cooperative**, I hope you and the U.S. DOT will award a RAISE 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,

**Michael D Berry  
General Manager  
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