



OKLAHOMA RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

June 2, 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:

On behalf of the member railroads of the Oklahoma Railroad Association, I wish to express strong support for the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Freight Mobility Plan Project application for the United States Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. The Oklahoma Railroad Association represents the freight rail industry operating in Oklahoma including both the Class One and Short Line railroads.

The South Western Oklahoma Development Authority (SWODA) in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) prepared a RAISE grant for the Southwest Oklahoma Regional Transportation Planning organization. This RAISE Grant would develop a Regional Freight Mobility Plan to assess the current state of air, truck and rail freight system operations and identify ways to effectively prioritize and address future freight congestion issues, key regional bottlenecks, infrastructure deficiencies, potential technologies, increase flow and safety, and enhance system preservation. The outcome from the development of the Regional Freight Mobility Plan will be a set of strategic recommendations and guidance outlining decision-making processes and targeted regional actions as well as policies for priority investments within both urban and rural environments of the southwest Oklahoma.

This project is important to the entire southwest regional of Oklahoma. This rural region is vital to the both the energy sector including oil and gas as well as the agriculture section of our economy. Thank you in advance for your time and consideration as you make decisions of importance to the State of Oklahoma as well as our Nation's transportation policy.

Respectfully,

Lori A. Kromer Peterson
Executive Director

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