Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

We strongly support the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application submitted by the City of Coolidge and Pinal County, Arizona, to develop critical regional and national infrastructure for Inland Port Arizona (IPAZ) and the Nikola project.

Anchored by Phoenix and Tucson, the IPAZ represents a unique opportunity with many regional benefits, including job growth, increased property value, and private economic development. IPAZ consists of approximately 2,700 acres of land within the city limits of Coolidge in Pinal County, Arizona. The County is seeking $18 million in BUILD grant funds to develop the roadway infrastructure necessary to implement the IPAZ and support development of the Nikola project.

Nikola Motor Company, a Phoenix-based company, designs and manufactures hydrogen-electric vehicles, electric-vehicle drivetrains, components, energy-storage systems and hydrogen stations. Showing it's long term commitment to the region, Nikola recently completed the purchase of approximately 400 acres of land earlier this year, and it expects to break ground within the IPAZ industrial park in 2020 then begin operations in 2022 which will ramp up over several years. This project will include the construction of a large manufacturing facility where Nikola will build hydrogen-electric semi-trucks. The addition of Nikola to the region will create significant annual economic and fiscal benefits for the State of Arizona, Pinal County and Coolidge.

Nikola Motor Company will create an estimated 4,980 total person-years of employment during construction and generate over $281.3 million in wages and over $703.2 million in total economic output. The impacts from operations are expected to begin in 2022 and continue to grow over the next few years until stabilized operations and will include at least 1,762 direct employees earning nearly $141.0 million in wages and creating over $912.6 million in economic activity each year. Each year thereafter, Nikola will create a total of 3,530 jobs throughout the State of Arizona, support nearly $246.6 million in wages, and generate over $1.2 billion in economic output.

This application focuses on transportation improvements necessary to support development of the Nikola project, including intersection, roadway and other improvements. The project is aligned with the purpose of the BUILD grant program, and the goal expressed by Secretary Chao

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to "…provide needed infrastructure investment to better connect rural and urban communities around our nation."

We would like to thank you in advance for giving full consideration to the City of Coolidge and Pinal County's BUILD application. As always, we ask that this matter gets handled in strict accordance with existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices with questions or if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar
Member of Congress