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COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1502**

April 15, 2020

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

RE: Support for the City of Oskaloosa's Oskaloosa Bypass Planning Study BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am proud to support the City of Oskaloosa's BUILD grant application for their proposed Oskaloosa Bypass Planning Study project. This project would help the City of Oskaloosa, Mahaska County and the Mahaska Chamber and Development Group enhance the safety and capacity of the corridor and promote safe and efficient freight transport of local goods. Furthermore, the study will examine what is needed for the implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network, which will position the community to be a 21<sup>st</sup> century leader.

Currently, there is significant truck traffic that navigates through the urban and residential parts of the City. This not only creates safety concerns for the residents, but also is an impediment to the efficient movement of local goods that are exported across the United States and around the world. This project will evaluate potential bypass routes that would allow the community to better plan for economic, industrial and residential development.

This study will not only focus on improving transportation infrastructure but aims to boost the quality of life for residents and businesses by evaluating the infrastructure necessary for the implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network. As a Co-Chair of the Rural Broadband Caucus, I know that increased internet access is essential for a community like Oskaloosa to grow and compete in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.

The Oskaloosa Planning Study is a necessary and worthwhile investment that will enhance the safety and quality of life for the people of Oskaloosa today and into the future. I fully support their application for BUILD grant funding assistance.

Sincerely,



David Loebuck  
Member of Congress