

June 17, 2020

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:

International Ingredients enthusiastically supports the City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County's application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

Binns & Stevens Explosives Inc is a family owned business that has been in operation since 1956. As a regional leader in dust control, a strong transportation network is imperative to our success. Completing the planning study to develop bypasses along the east side of the City of Oskaloosa will ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come.

The BUILD-supported planning study will allow the City of Oskaloosa, Mahaska County in partnership with the Mahaska Chamber and Development Group to prepare a plan that will evaluate the safety and capacity of the corridor, enhance safe and efficient freight transport avoiding urban areas, improve response times for emergency vehicles to essential services - including healthcare providers, provide a safer route for students from the William Penn University, and will bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, supporting both increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes.

For Binns and Stevens specifically, the BUILD-supported project will allow us to continue to grow our business and invest in our community.

We are pleased to support the City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County's BUILD Grant application for the **Oskaloosa Bypass Planning Study**. This project is important to the economic vitality of the region; it will improve the quality of life and allow the City and Mahaska County to improve the condition of key infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Heather Stevens
President, Binns and Stevens Inc.