

June 20, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

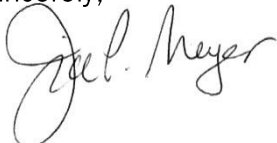
On behalf of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, the Greater Cincinnati Redevelopment Authority, and the Regional Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Cincinnati, we collectively write to support the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) application for a BUILD grant to improve the I-75 to I-74 connector in the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana region. This improvement project will increase freight movement and improve travel flow, ensuring that commerce in the region is not impeded. As a region, we know that improving and maintaining our infrastructure is critical to connecting people to jobs, education, health care, and all that our region has to offer.

This section of I-75 is a critical component of America's freight network and our regional economy. Freight on trucks moving through this corridor is estimated to be valued at more than \$435 billion per year. I-75 is a major national north-south freight corridor and the interchange to I-74 provides east-west movement through Ohio to and from the rest of the nation.

This project, the Mill Creek Expressway Phase 5b in Cincinnati, will construct new interchange structures to improve the connection from south bound I-75 to west bound I-74 and add capacity on I-74. With the BUILD grant, our ODOT partners will be able to unlock this I-75/I-74 connection to increase the flow of freight which will have positive regional and national impacts.

Thank you for your consideration of our support for this important regional project. Please contact us with any questions you may have.

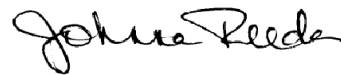
Sincerely,



Jill P. Meyer  
President/CEO  
Cincinnati USA Regional  
Chamber



Laura N. Brunner  
President/CEO  
Greater Cincinnati  
Redevelopment Authority



Johnna Reeder  
President/CEO  
REDI Cincinnati