

6/18/19

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 Clinton's **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**
BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

Nestlé Purina PetCare Company, which has operated a pet food manufacturing facility in Clinton since 1969, enthusiastically supports the City of Clinton's application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

Nestlé Purina's mission is to enrich the lives of pets and the people who love them, and this includes our employees and visitors to our facility, such as those who transport our products. A strong transportation network is imperative to our success. Completing the Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard reconstruction project – a total reconstruction and enhancement of the alignment from US Route 30 to 7th Avenue North – will ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come.

The BUILD-supported reconstruction project will allow the City of Clinton to simultaneously enhance the safety and capacity of the corridor all while making several environmental enhancements in the area. The raising of the road over a foot and the widening of both bridges to allow for modification of both Mill and Harts Mill Creeks will be synchronized with Nestlé Purina's upcoming project to place a secondary dike on the north side of the property to help protect the plant from flooding. **In July of 2017, severe flooding resulted in losses in excess of \$1.5MM for our factory. We support any additional assistance in the future prevention of such an occurrence.** Furthermore, the project will include the infrastructure necessary for future implementation of a high-speed fiber and broadband network, which will position our community to be a 21st century leader and serve as a primary gateway to the area that has been identified as an "**Opportunity Zone**" by the US Department of the Treasury.

For Nestlé Purina specifically, the BUILD-supported reconstruction project will create a much safer entrance and exit to our location. We pride ourselves on the outstanding safety culture we have instilled in our factory for employees and visitors. This project, with the creation of the turn lanes, as well as the implementation of the roundabout near our entrance, will help alleviate unnecessary risk and aid in more efficient inbound and outbound truck traffic. We look forward to this reconstruction project and helping support it in any way we can.

We are pleased to support the City of Clinton's BUILD Grant application for the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**. This project is important to the economic vitality of the region; it will improve the quality of life and allow the City to improve the condition of key infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Roger Brecht
Plant Manager
Nestlé Purina
Clinton, Iowa