

June 25, 2018

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:

On behalf of the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Progress Coalition, I offer our whole-hearted support of the City of Clinton's application for funding through the US Department of Transportation's BUILD Transportation Discretionary Grant Program.

The Chamber's mission is to be a voice for the business community in our region. Clinton Progress Coalition was formed to unite the various voices that represent our region - businesses, schools, industry, city and county governments, and social agencies. The Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Progress Coalition are in agreement that the Manufacturing Drive and Bluff Boulevard reconstruction project - a total reconstruction and enhancement of the alignment from US Route 30 to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North to ensure the safe, efficient movement of people and goods for decades to come - is THE priority project for the City of Clinton.

Beyond improving safety and accessibility on this main artery, The BUILD-supported reconstruction project will allow the City of Clinton to make several environmental enhancements in the area. The project will enhance access to essential services, including multiple healthcare providers, a safe route for students from Clinton STEM Academy's Campus to the high school and will bolster pedestrian and bicyclist amenities, supporting both increased community vibrancy and better health outcomes. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

From our point of view, the BUILD-supported reconstruction project will improve safety on this main artery; offer our community the ability to provide state-of-the art telecommunications to existing and potential businesses and residents; diminish traffic congestion for the industries located on Manufacturing Drive; and create a more welcoming entrance to the center of our community.

We are a community focused on economic growth. The Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Clinton Progress Coalition are pleased to support the City of Clinton's BUILD Grant application for the **Drive to Prosperity: Manufacturing Drive/Bluff Boulevard Reconstruction**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maureen K Miller".

Maureen Miller, President/CEO  
Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert B Holesinger".

Robert Holesinger, Entrepreneur  
Clinton Progress Coalition