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July 12, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

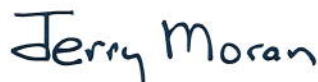
I write in support of the City of Russell, Kansas and their application for rural funds through the RAISE Transportation Discretionary Grant Program. This program would assist them in the necessary replacement of several streets and sidewalks within the city's main corridor and to their industrial park.

A challenge faced by many rural communities is decreasing revenue and the demand to replace aging infrastructure. Many of the streets the city proposes to replace are over 50 years in age and are in disrepair to such an extent it is not safe to travel them at normal traffic speeds. Safety of area residents is also a factor to consider with the sidewalks, as a majority of households without vehicles reside in the main corridor of the city. Funding would assist in replacing the deteriorated streets and sidewalks so they can provide better and safer access and mobility to their residents.

Of importance is the replacement of 15th Street leading to the industrial park and Purefield Ingredients, an ethanol and wheat gluten plant. Purefield makes ethanol with the lowest carbon intensity ratings in the nation providing an environmentally responsible alternative fuel produced from renewable resources. Purefield's ethanol in Russell is made from wheat and is one of only a few plants that use wheat. The company leads the nation in production of all wheat protein made in America. Purefield is starting a multi-million-dollar expansion which will bring in an additional 9,100 trucks per year. Currently 28,340 trucks run through the ethanol plant per year. Replacing 15th Street will increase the efficiency of movement of these trucks in and out of the facility and connectivity to I-70.

The City of Russell has developed a transportation master plan and continues to leverage local and state funds as they understand the vast demand for roadway improvements and the high importance placed on prioritizing those needs. Thank you for your consideration of their application.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran

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