



(918) 783-5793  
Fax: (918) 783-5786

June 20, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) funding for the State Highway 28 Bridge Widening Project over Pensacola Dam and Auxiliary Spillways

Honorable Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Grand Gateway Economic Development Association, I am writing to voice our organization's strong support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Grand River Dam Authority's (GRDA) application for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to assist with the State Highway 28 Bridge Widening Project over Pensacola Dam and Auxiliary Spillways in Mayes County. The proposed improvements to these Bridges are both necessary and urgent to provide for motorist safety and better facilitate traffic to meet the strategic goals of both ODOT and the region.

The Grand Gateway Economic Development Association strongly supports the SH-28 Pensacola Dam Bridges Widening and Rehabilitation Project for its vital contribution to the region and state. The three State Highway 28 bridges are traveled daily by a combination of semi-trucks, recreation vehicles, boats, camping trailers, ambulances, fire trucks and other wide loads. It is also an important tourism connector route, as it is the primary thoroughfare to multiple resorts, marinas, and state parks around Grand Lake. During summer months, the population surrounding Grand Lake almost triples thus placing additional demand on these structures.

We believe that ODOT and GRDA's State Highway 28 Bridge Widening project is a strong candidate for the BUILD Discretionary Grant program, as it is a significant project for the public safety and prosperity of northeast Oklahoma. Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to call on us should you have questions or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marion D. Stinson".

Marion D. Stinson, Deputy Executive Director  
GGEDA