

Letters of Support Index
Competitive Highway Bridge Grant
Oklahoma Department of Transportation & Grant County Oklahoma

Oklahoma Freight Advisory Committee

- **Comark Equity Alliance**

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November 26, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing this letter to indicate the support of CoMark Equity Alliance (CEA) for the Grant County, Oklahoma application for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) funds, as submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Thank you for promoting this important infrastructure assistance grant program!

CEA is a cooperatively owned grain marketing company owned by 28 farmer owned cooperatives with 160 locations in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. We have daily contact with farmers and trucking companies who traverse county roads and bridges. And we know Grant County has many bridges in need of repair or replacement!

A bridge that is load posted or closed can cause an extra five minutes of travel per one way trip. If a farmer plans to haul two truckloads to the local elevator per day, this means an additional 20 minutes/day or two hours per week. Those two hours translate into loss of time for other critical activities like harvesting before a storm, or unloading grain to a drier bin.

As a member of the Oklahoma Freight Advisory Committee, we spent many hours discussing the priority of safe and reliable transport, as well as the importance of looking at "the last mile". Certainly this project would address both of those issues.

I feel confident that there is a demonstrated need for federal assistance. The County and the State of Oklahoma will also share in the cost. An investment of \$10 million today will reap benefits far into the future.

I respectfully request your wholehearted support of this worthy project.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Troy Rigel', is written over a horizontal yellow line.

Troy Rigel
CoMark Equity Alliance, LLC
Member, Oklahoma Freight Advisory Committee

CC: Grant County Commissioners Office