

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2020

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

We are honored to support the City of Mesa's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application for the Pecos Industrial Rail Access Train Extension (PIRATE) project.

As you know, the Phoenix metropolitan area is booming. In fact, recent U.S. Census Bureau estimates suggest that Greater Phoenix is now the 10th most populous metropolitan area in the nation, and Maricopa County continues to rank as one of the fastest growing counties each year. With a population of over half a million residents, the city of Mesa, just twenty miles to the east of downtown Phoenix, is a major key to the region's success and continues to emerge as an economic powerhouse in its own right.

However, in order to maintain its impressive growth, we must improve Mesa's infrastructure. Most of the city's rail network was developed decades ago, when Mesa was vastly less populous than it is today. Investment now will likely pay enormous dividends not merely for the Phoenix metropolitan area, but for the entire state of Arizona and the nation as a whole. Even modest projections suggest that the PIRATE project could create at least 16,000 new jobs and more than \$16 billion in economic output by 2030.

Thank you for your full consideration of this application, and please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Martha McSally
U.S. Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. Senator