

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

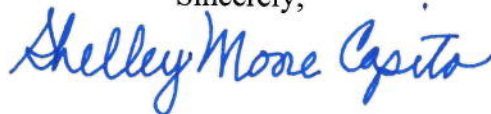
I write in regards to the West Virginia Division of Highway's (WVDOH) application for funding through the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant program. Funding will support the widening of West Virginia Route 2 to four lanes between Proctor and Kent, West Virginia, which will contribute to ongoing development and growth in northern West Virginia.

West Virginia's economy is experiencing a remarkable turnaround that is being led by the northern region of the state. The dynamism of the natural gas industry has engendered growth and opportunity for thousands of West Virginians working in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations. In order for these communities to continue to thrive and capture new downstream industries, however, investments in modern, dependable infrastructure are needed.

As we have seen across the United States, targeted infrastructure investments can contribute to economic growth and support vital industries like energy production. West Virginians recognize this fact, and in 2017 voters overwhelmingly approved a bond referendum to fund important projects like the widening of Route 2. Once completed, this project promises to facilitate the movement of goods and workers in an area primed for continued economic development.

Infrastructure, whether it is ports, highways, or broadband, is integral to the economic success of West Virginia and the entire nation. Federal partnerships with local and state entities can leverage the investment necessary to spur growth and provide opportunity. I hope you will give the West Virginia Division of Highway's application your full consideration.

Sincerely,



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator