

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

(202) 224-8962

September 26th, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation writes in support of the application submitted by Bernalillo County for a FY 2019 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant as funded by the Department of Transportation. This grant, FR-CRS-19-001, will allow Bernalillo County (County) to rehabilitate the unused Kirtland Rail Spur to encourage the formation of new freight-related industries near the Albuquerque International Airport.

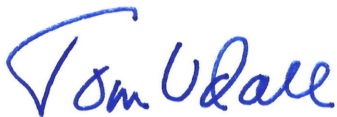
The County's current project is one phase of the larger effort to establish the Sunport Economic Development Investment District near the Albuquerque International Airport in order to increase the economic competitiveness of New Mexico's export industries via the development of rail, truck, and airfreight facilities adjacent to the airport. In its CRISI application, the County seeks funding to rehabilitate four miles of the Kirtland Rail Spur and construct a half-mile of rail siding for Albuquerque's light rail system.

The rehabilitation of this rail spur will eliminate the need for large shipments of goods to be transported between different railyards around Albuquerque by freight trucks. The requested rail siding will also reportedly contribute to the quality of light rail transit near the Albuquerque International Airport by reducing congestion caused by the competition between commuter passenger rail and freight transportation.

The County reports that this project has obtained a 50% private funding match and is supported by a number of state and local partners. The New Mexico Congressional Delegation believes these improvements will improve the quality and economic impact of rail transit in central New Mexico.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation proudly supports the application submitted by Bernalillo County for a FY 2019 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements grant as funded by the Department of Transportation and we request that you give their application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,



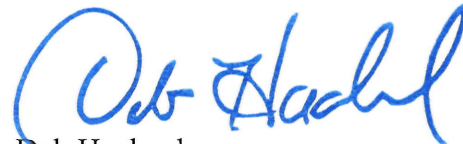
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Representative



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Deb Haaland
United States Representative



Xochitl Torres Small
United States Representative