

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

**DELEGATION OFFICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 224 - 8962**

May 21st, 2020

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 San Juan County for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant as funded by the Department of Transportation. This grant, DTOS59-20-RA-BUILD, will allow San Juan County (County) to complete a planning project for the proposed construction of a rail line from Farmington to Gallup, New Mexico.

The County's current project seeks to address the high cost of transporting commodities from northwestern New Mexico and the Navajo Nation for export. Accordingly, the County has partnered with the Navajo Nation in support of the construction of the proposed rail line through the Nation's jurisdiction.

If awarded, grant funds will enable the County and its partners to identify an appropriate location for the rail spur to connect with the BNSF railway, obtain the necessary right-of-way certifications, and complete an environmental review for the project. We believe this planning project will allow the County and its partners to prepare for the development of an infrastructure asset with significant economic potential for residents of northwestern New Mexico and the Navajo Nation.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation proudly supports the application submitted by the San Juan County for a Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development grant as funded by the

Department of Transportation and we request that you give their application thorough consideration within your agency's guidelines.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tom Udall
United States Senator

/s/ Ben Ray Luján
United States Representative

/s/ Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/s/ Deb Haaland
United States Representative

/s/ Xochitl Torres Small
United States Representative