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## United States Senate

June 27, 2018

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GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to you in support of the Montana Department of Transportation's application for a 2018 BUILD Discretionary Grant to fund their Missouri River Crossing Project.

U.S. Highway 287 is critical to the National Highway System, connecting Montana's state capital, Helena, to both Interstate 90 and surrounding communities. This corridor is vital to the transportation of freight through the Montana into Canada, as well as a link between Glacier National Park and Yellowstone National Park.

If successful, funding will be used to accelerate the Missouri River Crossing Project, which will add capacity and improve highway traffic, safety, mobility and operations. Specifically, the project involves replacing two narrow and outdated bridge structures near Toston, Montana that are currently being monitored on a 3-month cycle. Improvements to the structures also expect to benefit freight, agriculture, and the tourism industry.

I trust you will give this application fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator