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July 22, 2019

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

Dear Secretary Chao:

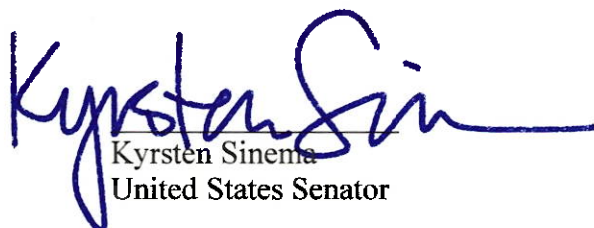
We write regarding the application submitted by Pinal County and the cities of Coolidge and Eloy, Arizona for a grant through the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program to develop critical regional and national infrastructure for Inland Port Arizona (IPAZ) and the Nikola project.


IPAZ consists of approximately 2,700 acres of land within the city limits of Coolidge in Pinal County, Arizona and would house one of the largest manufacturing and distribution centers in Arizona. Anchored by Phoenix and Tucson, the IPAZ represents a unique opportunity with many regional benefits, including job growth, increased property value, and private economic development. Nikola Motor Company expects to break ground within the IPAZ industrial park in 2020 then begin operations in 2022. Nikola, a Phoenix-based company, designs and manufactures hydrogen-electric vehicles, electric-vehicle drivetrains, components, energy-storage systems and hydrogen stations. This project will include the construction of a large manufacturing facility where Nikola will build hydrogen-electric semi-trucks.

Pinal County is seeking BUILD grant funds to develop the roadway infrastructure necessary to implement the IPAZ and support development of the Nikola project. Nikola's early investment in IPAZ demonstrates the project's viability and underscores the economic benefits IPAZ can bring to the City of Coolidge, Pinal County, and the State of Arizona as a whole.

Projects like IPAZ demonstrate that with proper investments in infrastructure, Arizona can become a regional hub for trade. In accordance with all existing agency rules, regulations, and ethical guidelines, we urge you to give this proposal full and fair consideration as you make this important funding decision.

Sincerely,


Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator


Martha McSally
United States Senator