

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, Dc 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write to express our support for the North Dakota Department of Transportation's (NDDOT) Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application for the Marley Crossing Planning Project. Thank you for your consideration.

This project will quantify the growing need for, and develop the documents necessary to, construct a rail-highway grade separation on ND 1804 southwest of Trenton, North Dakota. This crossing currently experiences significant traffic and freight, due to three nearby grain elevators with a combined oil-transload and pipe-logistics facility along a BNSF line, part of Amtrak's Empire Builder route. At the same time, future facilities are under development nearby. These include a facility to turn produced wastewater into valuable resources such as caustic soda, hydrochloric acid, calcium chloride, lithium, and a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) biorefinery that will use canola and soybean oils to produce both renewable diesel and biobased jet fuel.

The Marley Crossing project will enhance transportation flow, hasten access for emergency services, and improve both motor vehicle and train safety. This planning project will quantify and ultimately result in numerous benefits, including safer train operations, reduced train-vehicle collisions and derailment risk, while improving supply-chain logistics in this area that supplies numerous industrial and agricultural products to the nation and across the globe.

Accordingly, we hope NDDOT's proposed Marley Crossing Planning Project receives your favorable consideration, and all of North Dakota's application receive your full and fair consideration. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact us with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
US Senator



Kevin Cramer
US Senator



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress