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July 12, 2019

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

RE: North Carolina Department of Transportation
I-95 Resiliency and Innovative Technology Improvements Project

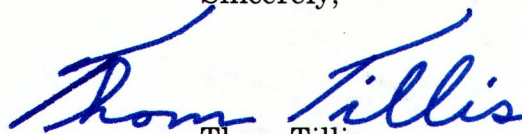
Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to support the grant application submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for funding through the United States Department of Transportation's 2019 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program.

NCDOT indicates that the I-95 Resiliency and Innovative Technology Improvements Project is the outcome of multiple investments and coordinated strategy to improve corridor performance, freight mobility, and infrastructure resiliency, and to build out and harden the network of freight distribution/military corridors and digital connectivity of rural communities in eastern North Carolina. The I-95 Corridor, which is critical for travel along the East Coast, is vulnerable to flooding in its current design. Through the widening of 27 miles of I-95 to eight lanes, raising two bridges, and adding state-of-the-art flood monitoring technology, this project will position North Carolina to immediately move forward to improve safety, address key bottlenecks, further build out the backbone of its eastern freight network, and improve the resiliency of key evacuation routes used by residents of North Carolina and neighboring states.

Improved transportation and related infrastructure are critical to the quality of life, job growth, sustainability, and enhanced safety in our state and region, and the I-95 Resiliency and Innovative Technology Improvements Project is poised to bolster the economic competitiveness of eastern North Carolina's rural communities. Thank you for your consideration of NCDOT's request as you make your final decision for the BUILD grant program. Please feel free to contact my Raleigh office at 919-856-4630 if you have questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator

TRT/lm

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