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June 23, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I write this letter to request full and fair consideration of the Pima County's Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant application. Pima County will use grant funds to relocate the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line through the Aerospace Research Campus (ARC) south of the Tucson International Airport (TIA).

In 2011, the Arizona State Rail Plan noted development of a comprehensive rail service plan and projected the population that uses the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line by 2050 will be 1,969 (in thousands). Along with providing the service necessary for the population, the relocation will reduce traffic congestion with the removal of 18 at-grade crossings, where currently 306,000 cars cross daily.

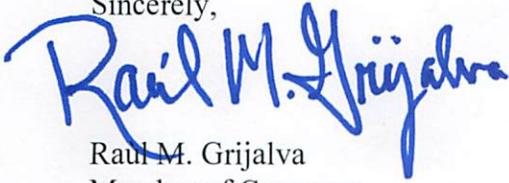
The relocation of the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line through the ARC south of the TIA is near Interstate 10 and Interstate 19 with about five hundred acres of vacant land. Pima County has ensured investment for infrastructure in this area and incentivized local businesses to relocate. This grant will ensure all future crossings will be safer, with minimal car and train interaction with above grade crossings and providing priority to train traffic. Additionally, the relocation of the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line will reduce hazardous train traffic through local communities and two elementary schools.

Funding from this grant will allow a segment of the line between Downtown Tucson and Old Vail Connection Road and repurpose as intercity or commuter rails. This new alignment will allow logistics growth between international containers and the Port of Tucson, southern Arizona's only intermodal facility. With a projected 75% growth in this region, the relocation of the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line will aid in Arizona's goal of increasing inbound and outbound rail freight, that is expected to double by 2030 and triple by 2050.



As the Representative for this region, I am writing to join the City of Tucson, Union Pacific Railroad, the Arizona Congressional delegation and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in support of Pima County's BUILD grant application. The grant funding for this project will provide essential infrastructure planning necessary to begin rail line relocation. Pima County's successful completion of this project, with the help of BUILD grant funding, will result in a projected economic impact of \$3.2 billion once completed. I support the funding of this project within all applicable rules and regulations and look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress