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June 18, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao - Secretary of Transportation
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 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) 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 thousand. Along with providing the service necessary for the population the relocation will reduce traffic congestion with the removal of 18 at-grade crossings, where 306,000 cars cross daily.

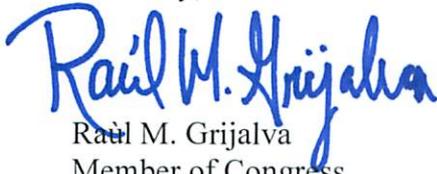
The relocation of the Union Pacific Railroad Nogales Line through the ARC south of the TIA is near Interstate 10 and Interstate 19 with about five hundred acres of vacant land. Pima County ensured investment for infrastructure in this area and incentivized local businesses to relocate to the area. This grant will ensure all future crossings will be safer with minimal car and train interaction with above grade crossings 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 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, Arizona Congressional delegation and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) in support of Pima County's CRISI 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 CRISI 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress