



CENTRAL MISSISSIPPI PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

1170 Lakeland Drive • P.O. Box 4935 • Jackson, Mississippi 39296-4935 • (601) 981-1511 • Fax: (601) 981-1515

Cobie Collins, President
Les Childress, Vice President
Isla Tullos, Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Monk, Chief Executive Officer

June 6, 2018

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

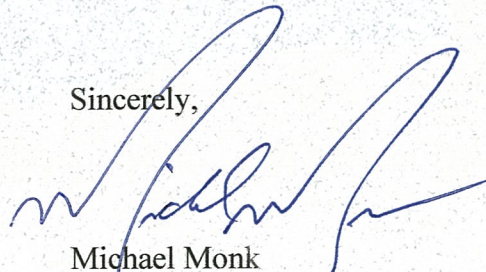
Dear Secretary Chao:

RE: Letter of Support for the Copiah County Roadway Improvement Initiative
2018 BUILD Grant Application

On behalf of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District (CMPDD), I would like to express our support for the Copiah County Roadway Improvement application for the U.S. Department of Transportation's 2018 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant program to address transportation infrastructure needs in Copiah County. The proposed project will greatly improve motor vehicle transportation reliability and safety in an economically disadvantaged rural region of Mississippi. The goal is to create a safe and dependable network of "safe-route-to-schools and basic points of need" that will allow the accomplishment of two major transportation goals: (1) create a fully connected and safe county transportation system that allows direct movement of citizens in rural areas to local economic points of basic need; and (2) provide safe routes to local K-12 schools and local Community Youth Camps.

We appreciate your consideration of this proposed BUILD application in helping improve the transportation infrastructure in the region.

Sincerely,



Michael Monk
Chief Executive Officer