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

**RE: City of East Moline "Greater Downtown Revitalization Project"
BUILD Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the City East Moline, I am writing in support of the Better Utilizing Infrastructure to Leverage Development (BUILD) discretionary grant application for the City of East Moline Greater Downtown Revitalization Project.

The proposed project addresses numerous issues within a blighted downtown district, and the two manufacturer brownfield redevelopment sites (The Quarter and The Bend). The City of East Moline has drastically suffered since the early 80's due to the major decline in manufacturing. Much of this was a result of manufacturers going overseas and factories closing across the rust belt region in the United States. Recently, the proposed Bend and Rust Belt developments have begun to bring back life to this area. This project will help build on this momentum and revive the greater downtown area as a vibrant business and entertainment district.

This East Moline project will also create a regional, multi-modal oriented destination for business, entertainment, and living that will drive economic and community activity. "Complete streets" implemented through the greater downtown area will provide safe, accessible connections for vehicles, pedestrians, buses, trains, boats, and bicyclists to the established commercial cores, nearby residential neighborhoods, Mississippi River Trail, and the Mississippi River. It will also dramatically enhance the area and create a uniform sense of identity to East Moline's "Greater Downtown" area with lighting, landscaping, gateway signs, wayfinding signs, parks, and green stormwater infrastructure. I applaud the City's collaborative efforts aimed at increasing accessibility of improving motorist, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian safety, and connecting regions in the community to help create development, business, and job growth.

I fully endorse their BUILD Grant application and respectfully request that you give the City of East Moline's application fair and full consideration. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jim Leach
John Deere Harvester Works