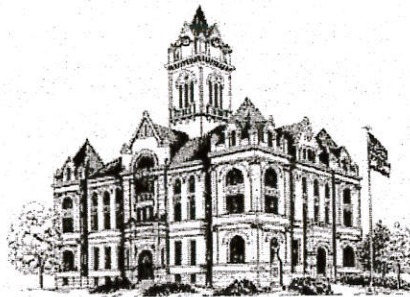


SAM BUSHMAN
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311 East High Street, Jefferson City, MO 65101
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July 17, 2018

United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Elaine Chao,

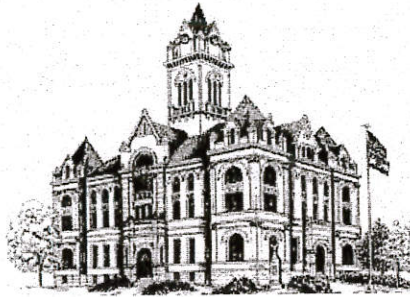
As Presiding Commissioner of Cole County I am writing in support of the BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Grant application we are submitting to you to help us create a regional port authority. Cole County, Callaway County, and the City of Jefferson are partnering to develop this port authority.

If the Missouri Department of Transportation grants us approval to form our regional port authority we will move ahead to acquire property on the north and south sides of the Missouri River, and enhance the infrastructure to attract private investments. This port will greatly assist existing commerce in Cole and Callaway Counties and attract new market opportunities to our area. I am having preliminary conversations with a company in Colorado that is looking to relocate to the Mid-West. Our port could be one of the deciding factors. The port can also ease freight traffic flow on our highways and roads in Central Missouri.

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The first travelers through Missouri came by river. Lewis and Clark passed by Jefferson City in 1804 on the Missouri River. A few years later Zebulon Pike explored and mapped the Osage River before he moved on west. Our early communities were all established along our rivers because our maritime highways were the most efficient way to travel this territory. As late as the 1880s the Missouri River was still the most efficient way to transport goods. My great-grandfather was a Jefferson City merchant and he would order his merchandise in St. Louis, and pick them up on the St. Louis levee by boat. In the 21st Century we are returning to utilizing our maritime highways as we did in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

The Jefferson City Area Chamber of Commerce is facilitating the preliminary planning and the submittal of the BUILD Grant on our behalf. Cole County, Callaway County, and the City of Jefferson have authorized the use of public funds as a match for the 20% local match required by the BUILD Grant Program.

I would appreciate your approval of the enclosed BUILD Grant for us to create a regional port authority in Mid-Missouri.

With Warmest Regards,
Sam Bushman
Cole County Presiding Commissioner