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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4105

February 21, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy:

It has come to my attention the Rosebud Sioux Tribe (RST) has submitted a request for planning grant funding from the United States Department of Transportation under the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. As a strong advocate for investing in our nation's infrastructure, I write in support of their application.

As you may know, South Dakota is home to nine tribes of the Great Sioux Nation. South Dakota's tribes face numerous challenges, and I am committed to exploring solutions to improve education, access health care, improve public safety, and provide economic opportunities for our tribal communities. This work must be done in collaboration with tribal leaders, key stakeholders, and other interested parties to ensure success and improve the quality of life for tribal citizens.

Should they receive funding, the RST plans to move forward with the BIA Route 1/Kilgore Road to US-20 Regional Improvement project. With eventual reconstruction, this corridor will experience significant safety upgrades for commuters. The route's roadway condition, traffic numbers, and other geographical features do not meet current safety standards. Significant improvements are crucial for residents to access employment, education, commerce, and other daily activities.

Making necessary investments into our nation's infrastructure system is important to safety, job creation, and sustained economic growth in communities throughout the country. Your thorough review of their application would be greatly appreciated, and I urge you to give it every consideration. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

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