REPRESENTATIVE ERIC EMERY | DISTRICT 26A
ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 27, 2025

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

RE: RAISE Grant Application – BIA Route 1-Kilgore Road to US Highway 20 Improvement Project

Dear Honorable Secretary of Transportation,

I am writing to express my full support for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's application for the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant. This funding will be instrumental in rehabilitating 17 miles of BIA Route 1, a critical roadway that has been out of service for far too long.

This project holds significant importance as it is listed as a top transportation priority for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. BIA Route 1 serves as a vital connection for the region, directly impacting the lives of residents, businesses, and community services. Specifically, it is a primary route for the St. Francis Indian School, providing access for students and staff. It is also used extensively by Tribal and county residents, service providers, and commercial vehicles transporting goods. Additionally, this road is essential for the farmers and ranchers who form the backbone of this rural community's economy.

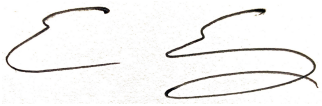
The rehabilitation of this roadway will provide far-reaching benefits. First and foremost, it will dramatically improve safety for commuters who currently face hazardous conditions due to the road's poor state. Enhanced safety measures and a reliable road surface will reduce accidents and ensure that emergency responders, school buses, and everyday travelers can navigate the route with confidence.

In addition to improving safety, this project will drive economic growth by improving access to markets, services, and educational institutions. Reliable transportation infrastructure is a cornerstone of rural development, and this project will enable the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and surrounding communities to pursue expanded economic opportunities. Improved infrastructure will also enhance the overall quality of life by reducing travel times, minimizing vehicle wear-and-tear, and ensuring efficient movement of goods and services.

The RAISE Grant represents an essential investment in infrastructure that is not only overdue but also transformational. With this funding, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe will be able to meet its goal of reviving this crucial roadway, which is vital to the community's sustainability and future growth.

Thank you for considering this critical project. I strongly urge the Department of Transportation to support the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's application and help make this project a reality. Please do not hesitate to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Eric Emery
District 26A State Representative
eric.emery@sdlegislature.gov