March 2026

US Dept of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Ave S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary,

We, the Commissioners of Cherry County, Nebraska, are writing to express our strong support of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Planning Grant application for FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant funds for the BIA Route 1/Kilgore Road to US-20 Regional Improvement Project from St. Francis, SD to Kilgore, NE. The proposed project would significantly improve the 17-mile project that include Cherry County's 6.2 miles of Kilgore Road from Kilgore, NE to the South Dakota / Nebraska state line where it connects to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's BIA Route 1.

The current road conditions have led to numerous vehicular crashes of which several resulted in fatalities. Additionally, some road issues pose risks to County maintenance personnel during essential activities such as snow plowing and mowing. Upgrading this route would create a safer, more reliable connection between Kilgore, Cherry County, NE, and St. Francis, Todd County, SD. This enhanced connectivity is crucial for residents to access employment, education, commerce, and daily necessities.

Cherry County is and remains committed to a project which has the support and approval of the affected Cherry County landowners. As the owners of Kilgore Road, the Cherry County Commission authorizes the inclusion of the road in the grant application and should BUILD grant funding be awarded, agrees to collaborate with and allow the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to complete all planning and preconstruction activities needed to provide for Plans, Specifications, and Estimates ready for construction. Furthermore, Cherry County currently owns and has maintenance responsibility for the 6.2 miles of Kilgore Road from Kilgore, NE to the state line and Cherry County will continue to own and maintain the road following the project.

We understand the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Transportation Program will coordinate all engineering design, environmental surveys, public engagement, and landowner meetings with the Cherry County Commission with the goal of preparing a successful plan for reconstruction.

We believe that this transformative project aligns perfectly with the BUILD program's objectives of improving safety, environmental sustainability, quality of life, economic competitiveness, and state of good repair. The positive impact on our community and the broader region would be substantial and long-lasting. We urge you to give the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's application your fullest consideration. If you require any additional information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

