February 21, 2026

Village of Kilgore
PO Box 135
Kilgore, NE 69216

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

RE: 2026 BUILD Grant Application – BIA Route 1/Kilgore Rd to US-20 Regional Improvement Project

Honorable Secretary of Transportation,

We, the Community of Kilgore, Nebraska, are writing to express our strong support of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe's Planning Grant application for FY 2025 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant funds for the South BIA Route 1 – Kilgore Road Transformative Project from St. Francis, SD to Kilgore, NE. The proposed project would significantly improve the 17-mile stretch from St. Francis, SD to Kilgore, NE and includes 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.

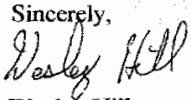
The current road conditions, amplified by sharp horizontal curves, existing narrow road top, steep hills, and limited sight distances have led to numerous vehicular crashes of which several resulted in fatalities. Upgrading this route would create a safer, more reliable road. This enhanced connectivity is crucial for residents accessing employment, education, commerce, and daily necessities.

As the owners of Kilgore Road, the Cherry County Commission authorizes the inclusion of the road in the grant application and should RAISE 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.

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 and Kilgore community 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.

Sincerely,



Wesley Hill

Chairperson