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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–4105

November 2, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

It has come to my attention the Oglala Sioux Tribe (OST) has submitted a request for funding from the United States Department of Transportation under the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) program. As a strong advocate for investing in our nation's infrastructure, I write in support of their application.

Should they receive funding, the OST plans to make further progress on the Crazy Horse Scenic Byway Pavement Resiliency and Restoration Project. Specifically, these funds would be utilized to reconstruct and restore portions of BIA Routes 2 and 41. Upgrading these segments of roadway will provide much-needed infrastructure improvements for visitors and tribal members, as the route runs adjacent to Badlands National Park and provides access to the South Unit.

Importantly, these upgrades will also ensure critical, long-term connectivity for communities and commercial operations in the region. Modernizing this route will provide access to commuters and residents seeking employment, education, health care, and other necessary benefits across the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

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.

Kindest regards,

John Thune

JOHN THUNE
United States Senator

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