

Letters of Support Index

Competitive Highway Bridge Grant

Oklahoma Department of Transportation & Grant County Oklahoma

Transportation Organizations or Companies

- Olsson

Trade organizations

- Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma
- Grant County Farm Bureau
- Oklahoma Wheat Growers' Association

Non-profit Organizations

- Bethel Hawley Baptist Church
- Bethel Hawley Baptist Church Members
- Deer Creek Food Pantry
- Wheatheart Nutrition Project

Businesses & individuals

- Aldridge Farms
- Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- 'ARC" Harden Welding L.L.C.
- B & B Equipment
- BA Tire and Automotive, LLC
- Biby Ag Equipment
- Bobbitt Farms
- Bobbitt Professional Tax Practitioner
- Boileau, Fran
- Brittain's European Taxidermy

- Burnet Farms
- Campbell, Randy
- Chisholm Trail Terminal
- Clover, Steven
- Cromwell Ranch
- D & D NAPA
- Deterding Aerial
- Evans, Jody
- Farmers Exchange Bank (Nash)
- Farmers Exchange Bank (Wakita)
- Farmers Grain Company (Lamont)
- Farmers Grain Company (Nash)
- Farmers Grain Company (Pond Creek)
- Farmers Grain Company (Pond Creek)
- Farmers Grain Company (Wakita)
- F.C. Feist Farms
- Feist, Gary
- First State Bank (Pond Creek)
- Fries, Jeri
- Grant County Cotton Coop
- GSX Inc.
- Sue Harden Insurance & Harden Farm

- Hawley Services Inc.
 - Hendrick, Elizabeth
 - Hern Farm
 - Hess Farms, Edgar E. Hess
 - Hess Farms, Sherry Lynn Hess
 - K & K Diesel, LLC
 - KanOkla Networks
 - Kloefkorn, Aaron
 - Kloefkorn Trucking LLC
 - Kretchmar Distributing
 - Krittenbrink, Shane
 - Lanie Farms
 - Lazy Bar B Land & Cattle Co.
 - Lippard Auctioneers
 - Little B's Construction, Inc.
 - Manchester Mfg Co.
 - Miller EMS Services
 - Mr. H Canvas
 - Muegge, Clay
 - Muegge, Don
 - Muegge Farms
 - Muegge Feeders
 - Muegge Freight Lines, LLC
 - NAPA Kelley's Auto Parts
 - Native Energy & Technology, Inc.
 - Parrish, Robert
 - Patterson, Bryan L.
 - Pond Creek Pallets Inc.
 - Prairieland Partners
 - Prairieview Wheat Farms
 - Rapp Insurance Agency LLC
 - Reese, Darrell
 - Regier Farms
 - Rieger Farms
 - Rieger Welding L.L.C.
 - Rockpoint Gas Storage
 - Salt Fork Hunting Country
 - Smrcka's Dairy Snack
 - Southern Kansas Cotton Growers
 - State Exchange Bank
 - State Line Grain Company
 - Tautfest Farms
 - Tradewind Energy
 - The SpotLight
 - Union Valley Petroleum
 - Vardy, Dennis
 - Wilson, Daniel
-
- YL Limited



U.S. Department of Transportation
Secretary Elaine L. Chao

1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590
Address November 9, 2018

Dear Secretary Chao and selection committee members:

As a product of Grant County myself, I am particularly excited about this opportunity. As a graduate from one of the 3 public schools in Grant County, I am the only civil engineer that I know from the entire county. From that perspective, and with an attempt at impartiality, I believe that the Commissioner and ODOT's proposal are a good use of federal dollars.

The economy of Grant County and most of north-central Oklahoma is in agriculture (primarily cropland, with some livestock) and energy (primarily fossil fuels, with some wind and solar farms). As the trends of globalization and urbanization continue, these rural areas will still need infrastructure, with strategic and informed planning. The Oklahoma DOT has established regional development authorities, a state-wide CIP plan for counties, and a focus on maintaining and improving the critical pieces of infrastructure. The functional classification of a roadway is a primary factor in project prioritization.

REPLACING 34 S.D. BRIDGES AT REDUCED COST, IN REDUCED TIME

Grant County has well over 100 structurally deficient bridges and many above this number have already been removed from NBI registration. This is an opportunity to replace 34 strategic bridges, 1) at a reduced cost by mandatorily tying the bridges into one project, and 2) in reduced time with Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) best practices and techniques.

IN SUPPORT OF THIS WELL-PLANNED, WELL-INFORMED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

I support this grant application, as it prioritizes fiscal efficiency, road user costs, and best principles of regional planning.

We look forward to hearing the outcome of this grant application process. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 405.434.3841 or at cbachman@olsson.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colby Bachman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colby Bachman, PE, MSE, CFM
Olsson Project Manager



Gene Wallace
Executive Director
429 N.E. 50th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Toll Free: 800.982.6212
Local: 405.524.3200
Fax: 405.524.3700
<http://www.okacco.com>

Executive Board
Doug Hubbard, Cherokee County
President
Jimmy Westbrook, McCurtain County
Vice-President
Russell Earls, Ottawa County
Secretary/Treasurer
Gary Starns, Pontotoc County
Past President

Board of Directors
Dan DeLozier, Rogers County
District 1
Stephen Wright, Muskogee County
District 2
Lance Smith, LeFlore County
District 3
Gary Gray, Hughes County
District 4
Johnny Mann, Garvin County
District 5
Don Hawthorne, Comanche County
District 6
Nicky Boone, Harmon County
District 7
Jack Strain, Texas County
District 8

November 7, 2018

Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: CHBP APPLICATION FOR GRANT COUNTY OKLAHOMA

Dear Secretary Chao:

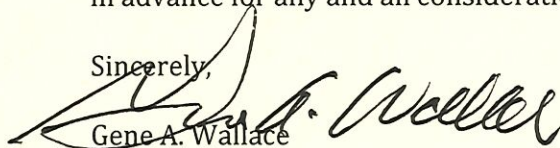
The Association of County Commissioners of Oklahoma in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is appreciative of this Administration's opportunity under the CHBP to bundle deficient bridges in rural areas. Our State is the 20th largest State in our Nation and as result, we rank Number 3 in structurally deficient bridges totaling 3,234. Our rural Counties are constantly challenged by heavier traffic supported by many bridges built and designed in the 1920-30's.

Our Counties have joined together in engineering groups to address this issue, and the impact of bundling multiple bridges under the grant guidelines of the CHBP, demonstrates the vision shown by this Administration. The understanding that rural transportation infrastructure supports not only the farm to food needs, but are economic engine accelerators for energy sources such as fossil, wind, hydro and solar, while produced in rural areas, serve the entire Nation.

The inclusion of rural America with the grant guidelines provides incentive of matching partnerships within our State. We are capable and embrace the prospect of financial match through these partnerships of County, State and in some cases tribal share.

As evidenced by our application, we have shown by performance that our State and County has the professional management support staff, with the assurance we will make the CHBP Grant program meet the demonstrated needs of rural America. We want to thank you in advance for any and all consideration you may give to our application.

Sincerely,


Gene A. Wallace
Executive Director

Grant County Farm Bureau
110 N First Medford, OK 73759

November 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

Grant County Farm Bureau absolutely supports the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) in partnership with Grant County to submit an application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. This application is based on a new innovation to bundle 34 comparable county-owned bridges into one single contract for bidding, thus saving time and money.

Farm Bureau is an independent, non-governmental, voluntary organization of farm and ranch families united for the purpose of analyzing their problems and formulating action to achieve educational improvement, economic opportunity, and social advancement and thereby, to promote the national well-being. Farm Bureau is local, county, state, national, and international in its scope and influence, and is non-partisan, non-sectarian, and non-secret in character. Farm Bureau is the voice of agricultural produces at all levels.

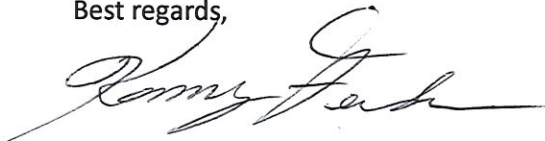
Grant County was settled as part of the Cherokee Strip. Wheat is our number one crop. Livestock are an important part of our economy, along with oil and gas production and distribution. Farmers and rancher in just Grant County, population 4,527, generate \$96.8 million in economic output, according to the most recent United States Census date. This is a major economic impact that cannot and should not be ignored.

Unfortunately, Grant County's rural infrastructure has become increasingly insufficient to accommodate the demands of more current and modernized farm equipment along with higher yields of production. Grant County has 174 county-owned structurally deficient bridges. Economic impacts from farm income, as well as direct and induced impacts from farm spending on supplies, payroll and taxes are important factors for Grant County.

The opportunity to bundle 34 Grant County owned bridges into a single contract for replacement, plus adding the value of engineering 3 to 5 standardized bridge designs that can be implemented as a county bridge standard for all 77 counties in Oklahoma, equals increased economic output and success!

Please give this project your consideration and include this project as a CHBP recipient for funding.

Best regards,



Kenny Ferda
Director of Public Policy
Grant County Farm Bureau



Oklahoma Wheat Growers Association

2309 N. 10th Street, Suite E
Enid, OK 73701
Phone: 580-233-9516
Fax: 580-237-2131

November 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

Writing on behalf of the Oklahoma Wheat Growers' Association, be assured that our organization is completely in support of the application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) and Grant County to upgrade the structurally deficient county-owned bridges that serve as a life-line to agriculture.

The Oklahoma Wheat Commission is entirely producer-controlled. The Oklahoma Wheat Commission promotes greater utilization of wheat in domestic and international markets through research, market development and public education. Wheat producers literally feed the world and grow the economy internationally!

Most importantly is the fact that Grant County generates \$96.8 million in economic output with only 4,527 people, according to most recent U.S. Census data. Please do not overlook this statistic. We are well known for our agricultural innovations, including our three wind farms and our new 120-unit car train loading facility, just opened in 2016, to transport grain across the country for export.

While we may not have the day-to-day congestion experienced by urban counties, our prolonged harvest season—which begins with planting as early as March and lasts through December with the final harvests—creates great stress on our infrastructure network. Scores of trucks travel down our county roads every hour for days on end. While these roads were ideal for transporting livestock and crops to market 70 years ago, they are less than adequate to support today's heavier trucks, increased traffic demands and higher operating speeds.

Grant County is responsible for a substantial amount of infrastructure. There are 1,920 public road miles that run through Grant County. Grant County alone has over 3,000 bridge or bridge-like structures, including 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory with 174 county-owned bridges rated as structurally deficient! Bridges are an integral part of, not only Grant County's infrastructure, but more importantly in America's infrastructure.

This new innovation to bundle 34 like-kind bridges into one single contract will deliver greater economic growth to not only Grant County, Oklahoma but the entire Nation as well. Please give this CHBP grant application being submitted by Oklahoma DOT and Grant County your full attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R.J. Parrish".

R.J. Parrish
Immediate Past President



BETHEL HAWLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

Route 1, Box 58 • Nash, Oklahoma 73761 • (405) 839-2480

*Sharing Christ's Love for 100 Years
1895-1995*

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

RE: CHBP- Competative Highway Bridge Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

Our church is located on the western side of Grant County, Oklahoma. However those who attend our church come from as many as 30 miles away. They live in Medford, Wakita, Lamont, Pond Creek, Nash along with the rural areas of our county. To come to our church, our people must cross many inadequate and unsafe bridges.

We humbly ask that your approve the CHBP grant for our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jones".

**Mary Jones
Clerk**

Bethel Hawley Baptist Church Members
Route 1 Box 58
Nash, Oklahoma 73761

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

RE: CHBP- Competative Highway Bridge Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a resident of Grant County, Oklahoma, I ask that you carefully consider our county's CHBP grant application. Our county is in desperate need of funding to replace the aging and dilapidated bridges that serve our area. Being a sparsely populated area, we cannot generate enough revenue to replace these bridges alone. However, the farm crops and cattle that is produced in our county help feed our nation. Please help us with funding to replace these bridges.

Thank you for helping.

By Elie
24100 C.R. 800
Nash, OK 73761

Phil Ransom
83161 Hasket Rd
Wakita, OK 73771

Earl Winkle
24548 CR 800
Nash, OK 73754

Bobby Myrick
PO Box 191
Nash, OK 73761

Judy Renzel
86634 Green Rd
Medford Ok 73759

Trut Lani
28668 CR 840
Wakita, OK 73771

Janet Lu Royal
86634 Green Rd
Medford, OK 73759

Sue Daddard
32743 St Highway 11A
Wakita OK. 73771

Maury M. Jones
1311 S. Oak
Wakita, OK 73771

Barbara Chance
1092 Kansas Av.
Nash OK 73761

Bethel Hawley Baptist Church Members
Route 1 Box 58
Nash, Oklahoma 73761

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

RE: CHBP- Competative Highway Bridge Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a resident of Grant County, Oklahoma, I ask that you carefully consider our county's CHBP grant application. Our county is in desperate need of funding to replace the aging and dilapidated bridges that serve our area. Being a sparsely populated area, we cannot generate enough revenue to replace these bridges alone. However, the farm crops and cattle that is produced in our county help feed our nation. Please help us with funding to replace these bridges.

Thank you for helping.

Cassie Vickery
1092 Kansas Ave
Nash, OK 73761

Rod D. Haskins
609 W. Apache
Medford, OK 73759

Sherril Eulberg
105 E Cedar
Pond Creek OK 73766

Richard Hamand
2484 Walnut St
Nash, OK 73761

Robert Sharp
25329 CR 820
Nash OK 73761

Larry & Charlotte Steady
20624 Co. Rd. 770
NASH, OKLA. 73761

Ginger Hadden
24548 CR 800
Nash, OK 73761

Randy & Betty Jones
80574 McClain Rd
Manchester, OK 73158

Bethel Hawley Baptist Church Members
Route 1 Box 58
Nash, Oklahoma 73761

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

RE: CHBP- Competative Highway Bridge Program

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a resident of Grant County, Oklahoma, I ask that you carefully consider our county's CHBP grant application. Our county is in desperate need of funding to replace the aging and dilapidated bridges that serve our area. Being a sparsely populated area, we cannot generate enough revenue to replace these bridges alone. However, the farm crops and cattle that is produced in our county help feed our nation. Please help us with funding to replace these bridges.

Thank you for helping.

Travis Hidden

1111 S. oakwood 73703

*Lavay Moone
25265 ST Hwy 132
Nash, OK 73761*

DEER CREEK FOOD PANTRY FOUNDATION

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 61-169062

108065 JACKSON ROAD DEER CREEK, OK 74636

November 13, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of the Deer Creek Food Pantry Foundation I am writing in support of the application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted in partnership by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) and Grant County. This project would bundle 34 similar county-owned bridges into a single contract to save money, time and grow the economy.

The Deer Creek Food Pantry, located in Grant County, is a partner of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma that is a member of the Feeding America network of Food Banks. The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is the largest hunger-relief charity in the state – providing enough food to feed more than 136,000 hungry Oklahomans every week, 37 percent of whom are children.

In fiscal year 2018, the Regional Food Bank distributed more than 49.7 million pounds of food through a network of nearly 1,300 community-based partner agencies, charitable feeding programs and schools throughout 53 central and western Oklahoma counties, including Grant County. Our administrative and fundraising costs are less than 4 percent, which means more than 96 cents out of every dollar donated goes to fight hunger in our state and in our county.

The Deer Creek Food Pantry distributes food on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We serve about 100 to 125 families monthly. Individuals who help distribute the food are all volunteers from right here in Grant County.

Here are some of the economic benefits of the food bank and charitable food distribution network

- By providing food to low-income households, they free up financial resources to be spent for other consumer goods. This spending leads to a notable economic stimulus.
- Food banks offer employment opportunities to those working in warehousing and distribution operations.
- Purchase goods and services from local businesses.

Through their operations, food banks lead to an increase in business activity of an estimated \$1.5 billion in gross product each year as well as 16,100 permanent jobs in the United States. The impact of charitable food distribution networks is much larger, and is estimated to include \$16.5 billion in gross product each year and 220,100 permanent jobs in the United States.

Our food bank serves not only Grant County residents but we serve a much larger area, covering a many counties within Oklahoma. Therefore, good infrastructure of our county roads and bridges are essential because many recipients use the most direct route from their home to the facility, which includes crossing county-owned bridge infrastructure.

In closing, please give this application to bundle 34 similar bridges a favorable review.

Sincerely,



David D. Bachman
Finance Manager

WHEATHEART 
NUTRITION PROJECT
GETTING TO THE  OF OUR SENIORS NEEDS

November 8, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to express our full support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) in partnership with Grant County Oklahoma. Wheatheart Nutrition Project, Inc. provides hot meals, activities, Nutrition Education, one-on-one consults with a Registered Dietician, along with many other much needed services, to senior citizens within an eight county area. In addition to these services, Wheatheart also provides hot meals and Advantage frozen and/or shelf stables meals to homebound seniors and the disabled of all ages, providing much needed services in Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, Kay, Kingfisher, Noble and Major Counties, using many of the Grant County rural roads and bridges.

As the Project Director, I've come to know first-hand the importance and value of keeping seniors active, in their own homes, and engaged in their communities. However, it also requires them to be able to travel safely and securely on county roads and cross county bridges to the communities where these meals are served. In addition, we employ Food Carriers, Dieticians, Outreach Workers, Site Managers, Aides, Cooks, Custodians and many others who depend on county roads and bridges to operate our congregate sites, and continue these much-needed services, all of which saves Oklahoma money. In fact, many of our employees are seniors, who are very involved in their communities!

Grant County seniors generously volunteer and provide a vast amount of donated time & money to various community activities from Chamber of Commerce, Lion's Club, 4-H & FFA, rural Fire Depts., Churches, nutrition, school & transportation boards, & the new 1893 Grant County Historical Museum as well as many other boards and organizations. They like to socialize which includes activities at their local Wheatheart Senior Nutrition Sites where they receive hot meals 5-days a week at several sites within Grant County. Wheatheart serves approximately 2000 meals per day dependent on heavy trucks to make deliveries to our kitchens twice weekly using Grant County roads and bridges.

Wheatheart Nutrition project, Inc., fully supports Grant County as a recipient of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP). I believe the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) will provide Grant County with economic growth and development allowing seniors to stay in the county where they continue to shop adding to the overall economy of Grant County. In addition, the importance of the new innovation to bundle the 34 like-kind bridges into one single contract, will save time and money! Money savings is from engineering 3 to 5 bridge standards that all 77 counties can adopt and purchasing in bulk and contracting as a single contract. Time savings of a pre-fabrication of the bridge can be built off site and assembled on location requiring much less down time in road and bridge closures. It's a win-win for every one!

Together we can make a difference!


Kathleen M Willis
Project Director

RICHARD C. ALDRIDGE
79702 OSAGE ROAD
MANCHESTER, OK 73758

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Richard Aldridge. I am a cattle, alfalfa, wheat producer and a retired U.S. Postal Service rural mail carrier, with over 29 years of service. I live in Grant County, Oklahoma.

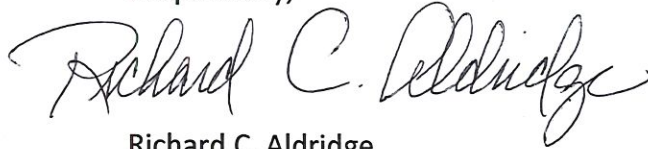
I would appreciate your support for the State of Oklahoma's application to secure funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in Grant County, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is seeking financial assistance to help them provide a safe, efficient highway and road system that will support and strengthen the economy of Grant County.

Bridges that have been damaged and lost due to inadequate maintenance because of a shortage of funding, have created problems and delays for delivering and picking up vital mail in rural areas. Damaged bridges have caused numerous delays over the years when receiving and shipping cattle, alfalfa, and grain.

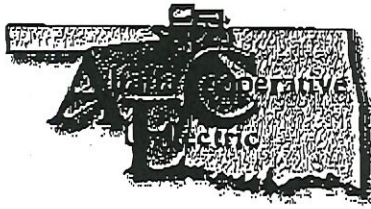
The funding provided will replace 34 bridges of critical importance. It will have a positive impact on schools, agriculture, business and the U.S. Postal Service in our communities of Grant County, Oklahoma.

I ask for your support for the State of Oklahoma's application for funding to replace 34 bridges in Grant County, Oklahoma.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard C. Aldridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Richard C. Aldridge
Aldridge Farms



"Your own power,
Your own people"

P.O. Box 39

121 E. Main

Cherokee, OK 73728

580-596-3333

Alfalga Electric Cooperative, Inc.

November 12, 2018

The Honorable Secretary - Elaine L Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc. employees and members, please consider this endorsement of the Grant County and Oklahoma Department of Transportation application for the funding for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP). Grant County Commissioners and Grant County rural roads play a vital role in the success to Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc as we work lines to provide the best service for our members. This proposed funding for the replacement of 34 rural bridges would greatly impact our rural community, not only for everyday travel but for also our company as we spend most of our time on rural roads maintaining power lines.

As the General Manager and CEO of Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, I know the importance of well-maintained roads and strongly built bridges. The success of our company lies at the hands of our county commissioners who provide us safe and efficient roads to travel. As an electric cooperative utility, we spend countless hours on the road each day and many of those are spent on rural county roads. The relationship we have with our county commissioners is one that we do not take for granted. Our job could simply not be completed without the cooperation and hard work from the county workers who provide us with safe and efficient roads to travel as we check power lines and diagnose problems. Whether it be during a winter storm or just during a line

maintenance project, these county roads are vital in our success. When one of our members is without electricity, we have to travel these roads to fix the issues. Good roads and bridges are key in our company's success on a daily basis when the weather is good, but also during winter and summer storms.

Grant County Commissioners do an excellent job maintaining the roads and bridges with the funding available to them. With the monies from the Competitive Highway Bridge Program, Grant County could increase bridge stability and provide a safer and more reliable traveling paths. These additional fundings would be a huge asset to the local residents and to companies like Alfalfa Electric Cooperative. I highly recommend Grant County and Oklahoma Department of Transportation for the funding of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. I look forward to hearing of the success from this program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Goetz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Greg Goetz

General Manager/CEO

'ARC' HARDEN WELDING L.L.C.

Owner/Operator

77195 Latimer Rd Manchester, OK 73758

PH: 580 694-2359 Cell: 580 542-3811

EMAIL: sueharden00@gmail.com

November 9, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing this letter in support of Grant County Oklahoma Resolution #2018-144. As the resolution states, many bridges and bridge-like structures are deficient in our area and I see funding through a Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant as a good way to remedy this deficiency.

As a contract welder to mainly the agriculture sector, I travel the roads of Grant County daily providing services to farmers and ranchers. Unsafe bridges, low water crossings and long detours negatively impact not only my ability to provide services but also can cause my services to be needed. Many times a repair is needed because of damage incurred in a move by a farmer from field to field.

As a rancher, I rely on county roads to care for my cattle and to ship and receive agricultural commodities. Closed bridges and low water crossings as well as bridges that will not carry a truck subtract directly from my families prosperity in these difficult times.

I appreciate your consideration of my letter and I would urge you to do all you can to help us improve our bridges here in northwest Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Harden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Grant County, Oklahoma in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is applying for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant. It will be nice to have access to good roads with new bridges where I can safely transport my equipment.

As an owner of a small construction company, I see this grant as a two-fold benefit. First, strong bridges help to move equipment to various jobs without as many out of route miles. Second, while our county roads have been improved greatly over the years, this bridge grant money may free up the county's money to shale and rock roads that need improvement.

I and my uncle before me, have aided in taking care of the roads with our heavy equipment. I will continue those endeavors. I am asking you to help Grant county and it's people. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Hendrick". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Brian Hendrick
Partner, B & B Equipment Services, LLC

November 7, 2018

Dear U.S Transportation Secretary, Elaine Chao:

I am highly encouraged to hear that our Grant County commissioners have sought to acquire funding to improve our county bridges through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. I am currently a small business owner in Pond Creek, Oklahoma and have been a resident of this community for 22 years.

As owner of BA Tire and Automotive, LLC, I see the benefits of bridge and road improvements to our community and the businesses within the community. When construction projects come to our area we experience an upturn in revenue for local, small business, much like my own. Projects and construction bring in workers who become consumers in our community. Such construction projects also afford local businesses the opportunity to bid and acquire work that is associated with these projects, thus creating jobs for our residents. The obvious reason for supporting improvement and updates to our local infrastructure stems from concern for the safety of friends and family traveling the roads in our area. Grant County has a couple of major highways that run through but it is the rural roads that do not get the attention of the State Highway Department that becomes a concern to local residents.

I doubt that it is common knowledge in the communities of Grant County that funding of this sort is being sought after by our current county commissioners, but I feel confident in saying that receiving such funding would be good news to all citizens of Grant County, Oklahoma. There are nearly 3000 bridges and bridge-like structures in our county that are traveled daily by men, women, and children on a daily basis that are assumed to be safe for travel. It is important to our citizens that the safety of our roads never become an issue of immediate concern. I look forward to hearing about the developments of this topic and the success that comes along with it. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arnie Smith', written in a cursive style.

Arnie Smith, Owner/Operator

BA Tire and Automotive, LLC

Biby Ag Equipment

27155 CR 830
Wakita OK, 73771
580-594-2474

November 8, 2018

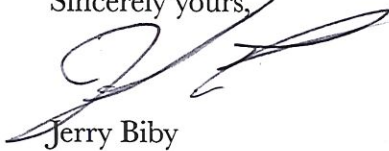
The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington DC, 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a local farmer and business owner, I endorse the State of Oklahoma, Department of Transportation's grant application for funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in northern Oklahoma. The financial assistance would help our county in providing safe and efficient roads and highway systems which in turn will support the economy of small towns and farms in Grant County Oklahoma. This infrastructure will help revitalize the agricultural, ranching, farming, and oil production businesses in this part of the state.

Thank you for your support and consideration in funding this grant.

Sincerely yours,



Jerry Biby

Owner, Biby Ag Equipment



BOBBITT FARMS

Michael L. & Cindy R. Bobbitt
107075 Comanche
3 E 1 S Salt Fork
Lamont, OK 74643-5017

Home Telephone: 580-388-6692
Mike Mobile phone: 580-984-2023
Cindy Mobile phone: 580-984-2041
E-mail: bobbittfarms1893@gmail.com

November 11, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am very pleased to hear that Grant County is being allowed to submit a proposal for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. This is in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) for a new way to bundle bridges. I support this concept whole-heartedly.

I am the 4th generation to farm the land we live on that was staked in the Cherokee Strip Land Run of 1893 by my Great-grandfather Bobbitt. I personally have seen the area change from hand-cranked telephones and tractors, to wireless internet and GPS auto-steer tractors (the first step in autonomous tractors)!

Unfortunately, the bridges in our county have not kept up. We no longer use 200 bushel 2-ton trucks that I started farming with to haul our crops and livestock to the nearest market. They are now hauled with 80,000 pound semi-trucks. We no longer use 60 HP tractors; they are now 500 HP tractors with touch-screens! Add oil and gas traffic and wind farms to the mix – and numerous bridges are not adequate or are non-existent now.

As an example, because of inadequate bridges, I now have to drive 14 miles to get to a field that is only 6 miles from my home. I am sure that oil and gas, and the wind farm traffic in our county are affected in a like manor. This vastly increases the loads on the roads and bridges that are deemed acceptable now.

We have a new unit train grain loading facility in Grant County. This is great! But this also requires that we be able to get our grain to the local grain elevator before it can be shipped to the unit train facility in a timely manner. Interstate commerce and international markets for our grain start at the rural road and bridge level! This level of infrastructure cannot be ignored.

I am greatly encouraged to hear that this administration is recognizing the importance and necessity of county bridges and hope that everything possible is done to develop, keep, and maintain a partnership with the federal and state DOTs to bring funding down to the local rural county level.

Again, I support the CHBP grant and hope that Grant County be allowed to participate.

Sincerely,

Michael L. Bobbitt



CINDY R. BOBBITT

Professional Tax Practitioner
107075 Comanche
Lamont, OK 74643-5017

Telephone: 580-388-6692
Cell Phone: 580-984-2041
E-mail: bobbittfarms1893@gmail.com

November 6, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the application being submitted by Grant County in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. This proposal is to address a new innovation to bundle 34 Grant County owned bridges of like-kind into one single contract for letting.

Grant County people are proud, efficient and resilient. As a small business owner that prepares income tax returns and deal with accounting and the government financial reporting requirements of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) I see many personal and business income and expenses for the folks that live here in Grant County.

Be assured that Grant County residents not only add to our own economy but we add to the state and national economy many more times over. We may be small, we may be rural, but we are powerful in our economic output!

The bridge bundling concept that Grant County is proposing will multiply many times over in services delivered, time saved, and once again adding to the growth of our nation.

Please look carefully and considerately at this grant opportunity that corresponds with the President's initiative to improve our Nation's infrastructure and Make America Great Again!

Genuinely,

Cindy R. Bobbitt

94512 Grady Road
Medford, OK 73759

November 11, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

First, I am writing to express my support for Grant County in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation that is submitting a Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. This grant will replace and build 34 county-owned bridges through a single bridge bundling package that will save money, save time and grow the American economy! This is great news!

More than 20 years ago I moved off our family farm that is located in Grant County to allow my daughter and her family to move into the home and take care of the farming. I moved to a larger city in another county. However, a few years ago I returned back to our family homestead and built a small home next to my daughter. I wanted to be back home where my children and grandchildren live. Moreover, I wanted to volunteer and participate in community events and see my grandchildren in their school and extracurricular activities! Simply said, I want to enjoy my life to the fullest.

I am an active senior citizen and I like to go and socialize, that's important for seniors to keep our minds healthy and our bodies fit. I attend church and use our public library every week. I go to the beauty shop to get my hair curled and my nails pedicured, purchase my groceries and do general shopping with our local businesses. My merchants like to see me coming because I spend money and this adds to the local growing economy.

According to an Oxford analysis, the senior citizen population has a distinctive consumer profile. We control almost 80 percent of the U.S. aggregate net worth. The average wealth of household headed by people over 50, and that's me, is almost three times that of those ages 25 to 50 who are heads of households. And the 50-plus spend more than any other age group! I certainly cannot take my money with me after I leave this earth now can I.

Furthermore, the 50-plus economy is a large source of charitable giving, contributing almost \$100 billion annually. That's 70 percent of all charitable donations from individuals.

In January 2019 I will be 88 years young and I still drive my own car because I have the luxury to live in a great rural county. We all know and look out for each other. My greatest concern when driving is the county bridges. Grant County has over 3,000 bridge and bridge-like structures, including 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory with 174 county-owned bridges rated as structurally deficient. I personally drive and cross some of these bridges.

The benefits of bundling county owned bridges here in Grant County will provide substantial economic benefits for all local, state and federal individuals. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Fran Krittenbrink Boileau



Brittain's
European Taxidermy

580-304-1463

JeremyBrittain1@gmail.com

215 W. Willow Medford, Oklahoma 73759

Jeremy Brittain
Taxidermist



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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to you, as a unique business owner in Grant County Oklahoma, to express my full support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) in partnership with Grant County.

Grant County is rich in outdoor life including hunting, fishing, 4 X 4 off-roading and ATV recreations. Outdoor recreation is the economy of the future and Grant County is seeing this grow every year. According to the Outdoor Industry Association in 2017, this \$887 billion in annual consumer spending creates the outdoor recreation economy that directly supports 7.6 million American jobs and generates \$125 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue.

As a young entrepreneur, I have a European Taxidermy Mounting business. Some hunting trophies just don't deserve a trip to the taxidermist for a shoulder mount, yet they don't deserve to be tacked to the tool shed, either. European skull mounts is another option for the avid hunter to display his or her deer or similar species in a unique way and they produce a classy mount!

My business has provided new and substantial economic development right here in my own back yard in rural Grant County. My customers come from all across Oklahoma as well as other states. It is most important to remember that transportation infrastructure of roads and bridges are essential to hunters and outdoor enthusiasts. These groups of aficionados cover a wide territory that may encompass a 25-mile plus area; therefore, not only is access important but timeliness is essential. Quality bridge infrastructure and mobility options are critical for economic development and economic growth within these industries and rural communities.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program for Grant County.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Brittain

Burnet Farms

Tim Burnet
39250 county road 770
Manchester OK. 73758

November 6, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a resident of Grant Co. Oklahoma I am excited about the opportunity for our county to support the State of Oklahoma's application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant. Maintaining roads and bridges in rural communities is always a financial challenge.

Burnet Farms is a farming and ranching operation that transports cattle and grain to and from markets and various farm locations using county roads and bridges. Several of the 34 planned bridge projects would directly benefit our operation. Burnet Farms is just one of many farms in this area that would benefit and appreciate access to this funding.

Thank you again for your support for the State of Oklahoma's application for this funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Burnet". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tim Burnet, partner
Burnet Farms

Post Office Box 43
Lamont, OK 74643

November 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to support the application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) and Grant County.

I am a farmer, age 94, and am still actively driving to the farm most every day to get in my tractor to work the farm ground or mow the ditches, and plant my crops. And in most years I get to oversee the harvesting of my crops, unless we have some weather disaster that destroys it. I grow winter wheat along with a little feed grain. I use to have a flock of sheep but have since rented out my grass pastures to my neighbor. I thought I might slow down just a little in the winter months so I don't need to go to the farm every day in the wintertime without livestock to tend to.

While I am busy growing crops and farming to help feed the world, Grant County highway department is busy trying to keep our roads and bridges safe for me to travel. Since I've mentioned my age, I might as well mention the age of our bridges here in Grant County. Some of the bridges I am crossing today are some of the same bridges I crossed in my youth, even prior to having a legal license to drive. I've been told the average ages of the bridges in Grant County are 60 to 65 years old; guess they are old enough for social security now.

The coffee-shop talk is that Grant County has over 3,000 bridge and bridge-like structures with 174 of them classified as structurally deficient. While these bridges were ideal for transporting livestock and crops to market 70 years ago, they are less than adequate to support today's heavier trucks. Rural areas are where the food is grown and it must be transported to the markets and then on to the consumers. Therefore, bridges are an integral part of, not only Grant County's infrastructure, but more importantly in America's infrastructure.

The CHBP application is for a new innovation to bundle 34 county-owned structurally deficient bridges into one contract to expedite engineering design, contracting time, delivery and construction time, detour time, then add my favorite savings for bridge bundling and that is project costs. A penny saved is a penny earned!

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this CHBP grant application and to me personally, as I would not only like to see these bridges built in my lifetime but I'd like to drive across them too. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Randy Campbell



Chisholm Trail Terminal
2805 N Van Buren
Enid, Ok 73703

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L Chao
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing this letter to advise you that the Chisholm Trail Terminal is in support of the Grant County, Oklahoma application for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) funds being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation. Thank you for promoting this important infrastructure grant program!

At the Chisholm Trail Terminal, we provide outbound rail service for products from farms, elevators, and other industries, as well as inbound service for supplies and materials that are distributed to agriculture, energy and others.

Oklahoma is an agricultural state. It has two large metropolitan areas – and much of the remaining geography is rural. The project that ODOT is proposing for replacing 34 bridges in Grant County can literally be a bridge between the rural economy and the urban population in many states. Rural roads and bridges are the lifeline that allows wheat to be brought to an elevator or rail terminal and then sold. Wheat is big in Grant County, but other farm and agricultural products as well as oil and gas industry workers and residents of the area also need to be able to traverse safe bridges.

Our County Commissioners have worked with the Oklahoma DOT to put together an efficient and innovative process for replacing aging bridges, and we think the \$10 million project is worthy of US DOT support.

I respectfully ask for your wholehearted support of this project that we feel confident will help travelers in Grant County and the surrounding area as they drive on safer and more efficient county roads and bridges. This will have a ripple effect on the economy throughout the county, state and nation.

Regards,

Troy Rigel
Sr. Grain Merchandiser & CTT Specialist

CC: Grant County Commissioners Office

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao

Grant County, located in north central Oklahoma, would appreciate support for State of Oklahoma's application to secure funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in our county. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is seeking financing assistance to help them in providing a safe and efficient road and highway system that will support the economy of small towns, counties, and farms in Grant Oklahoma. This effort will assist in revitalizing the agricultural, farm, and oil production businesses in this part of the state.

As being a life long resident of Grant County. And as being a farmer employ of Grant County I have dealt with the deteriorating bridges in this area. Also I am a member of the Hawley Volunteer Fire Dept, and have had to go around

several miles to get to a fire because of
a bridge that would not hold the fire trucks up.
We feel this project will confident this
project will help our County provide better
fire service to our County.

Sincerely,

Steven Clover
Steven Clover

Cromwell Ranch

76299 Logan Road, Manchester, OK 73758

11/12/2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U S Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant

Dear Secretary Chao,

Please accept this letter of support for the bridges in Grant County Oklahoma. Oklahoma is seeking funding to repair and replace structurally deficient bridges, and 170 of such bridges are here in Grant County.

We are a small rural county of about 4500 citizens, most of whom are involved in production agriculture. We need to get our crops and our livestock to market to help feed our nation. Our oil production is integral to the wellbeing of all Americans. We need to safely drive to conduct our daily business, attend church and get our children to school.

Our granddaughters must travel 27 miles each way to school every day, and their safety is upmost to me. Both are heavily involved in scholastic and extra-curricular activities, and many nights arrive home well after dark. Imagine our concerns of two young girls (ages 17 & 11) travelling alone at night over deficient bridges.

Receiving this grant would be a marvelous opportunity to strengthen our small county. We are fourth-generation ranchers here in Grant County, and plan to continue this operation for generations to come. We need good bridges, highways and county roads to continue to thrive. Grant County citizens are well educated and are loyal to Oklahoma and the United States. We help feed and fuel the nation, we serve in the military in times of need, and rural citizens are the backbone of the American way of life.

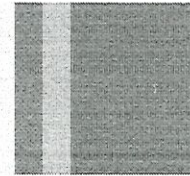
I encourage you to support Grant County Oklahoma with your support of this grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Mary Anna Cromwell Evans, M.Ed.
Co-owner, Cromwell Ranch

D & D NAPA
Diana Easterly
153 W. Broadway
Pond Creek, Oklahoma 73766



11/06/2018

U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao

Dear U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao,

As a small business owner in Grant County, Oklahoma, I would like to strongly endorse the Grant County and Oklahoma Department of Transportation's application for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. I feel that it is extremely important to maintain the bridges in the county.

The biggest share of business at my NAPA Auto Parts store comes from the farmers in Grant County. I often hear stories from our customers about the horrible condition of the bridges that they travel over daily. The people that live in a rural area like Grant County depend on the bridges to get to town for work, school, church and shopping. There are often multiple detours in the county because several bridges have failed. This results in people driving miles out of their way to get where they need to go.

I would strongly recommend that you consider Grant County when deciding where to award the CHBP grants. These funds are necessary to ensure the safety and continued maintenance of the roads and bridges in the area. I look forward to hearing about the grant being awarded to Grant County so that the failing bridges can be repaired.

Sincerely,

Diana Easterly



DETERDINGAERIAL
701 W Cedar Drive
Pond Creek, OK 73766

November 12, 2018

United States Secretary of Transportation
Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao

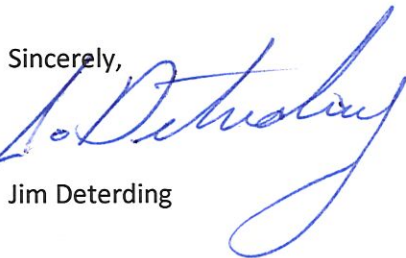
Greetings Ms. Chao:

Deterding Aerial is supporting the endorsement of Grant County Resolution #2018-144 of Grant County and Oklahoma Department of Transportation for funding the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant.

As a local businessman and farmer, it is imperative that we have safe and structurally sound bridges and roadways. Access to our farmland and commodities is integral to this rural area. Currently when the county roads are rutted from local traffic after heavy precipitation, I have taken my speed mover to smooth out ruts and make passage possible and safer for local traffic.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant.

Sincerely,



Jim Deterding

11/13/18

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States of America

RE: Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant

Secretary Chao;

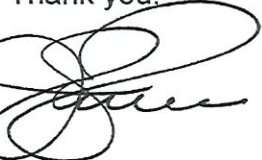
As a concerned citizen of Grant County, Oklahoma, I solicit your support of the State of Oklahoma's application for funding for repair and replacement of structurally deficient bridges of which over 170 have been identified in Grant County alone. We need to address these problem bridges in order to provide our residents with safe roads on which to travel. In rural America, these roads are the life blood of the community and the economy.

Grant County has a population of approximately 4,500, the majority of which are farmers and ranchers who depend on good roads and safe bridges to get our commodities to market. Additionally, reliable roads and bridges are crucial to transporting our children safely to and from school and to continued oil production in our area.

We see this grant as a step towards ensuring a brighter future for rural Oklahoma and providing the tools for future generations to thrive in the rural setting which is so vital not only to Oklahoma's economy, but to the continued prosperity of the United States.

No one supports American values more than do rural areas such as Grant County. Please seize this opportunity to support us.

Thank you.



Jody Evans

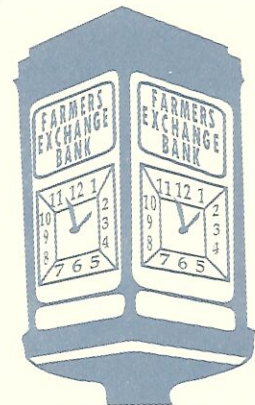
Rancher

76492 Major Rd.

Manchester, OK 73758

Farmers Exchange Bank

107 S. Main - P.O. Box 189 Nash, Oklahoma 73761
p. 580-839-2222 f. 580-839-2224 www.farmereb.com



Member FDIC

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am sending this letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grants that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Grant County, Oklahoma, Commissioners are applying for. These grants will make it possible for Grant County to get almost twenty percent (20%) of their bridges upgraded. This will be a tremendous boost to Grant County.

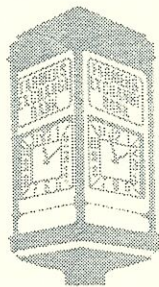
Our small rural community is primarily funded by agriculture. Many of our bridges are not capable of handling the weight for hauling products to market. In addition, our bridges affect the routes of getting our youth to and from school. Also, our first responding fire units have to drive many miles out of their way to respond to calls, when time is critical.

Thank you for reviewing our grant application.

Sincerely Yours,

Lisa Dershem

Lisa Dershem
Branch Manager



FARMERS EXCHANGE BANK

101 S. Locust • P.O. Box 7
Wakita, Oklahoma 73771
(580) 594-2251

November 6, 2018

THE HONORABLE
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to convey my strong support for The Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant application. This grant will increase bridge quality and safety for the producers and citizens of Grant County Oklahoma.

As Asst. Vice President of Farmers Exchange Bank in Wakita, Oklahoma, Grant county is a county rich in agricultural products such as wheat, cotton, soybeans, cattle and oil. This county is at a disadvantage in attracting and keeping business and families due to declining conditions. Also being Isolated, Grant county has to be a mobile society with their bus routes, mail service, transporting farm products to market and oil field traffic.

Grant county currently has 174 structurally deficient bridges. With bridges and roads deteriorating, the need to maintain the structurally sound bridges are at an increasing level. We have an opportunity to promote economic growth in this county with increased infrastructure. The benefit of this bridge project will allow this county to use limited resources on other needed projects other than bridges.

I urge your department to give this grant the appropriate attention and fair consideration it deserves. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

Kelly George

Asst. Vice President Farmers Exchange Bank

"Banking On A First Name Basis"
Member FDIC



PO Box 477 · Pond Creek, OK
73766
(580) 532-4273 ·
farmersgrainco.com

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to offer my letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. This grant application has been submitted for consideration by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in partnership with Grant County Oklahoma.

I serve as the Eastern Territory Manager for Farmers Grain Company, which is a full-service, multi-faceted agricultural cooperative with 14 locations in north central Oklahoma and south central Kansas. With \$138 million in annual sales and 13.7 million bushels in grain receipts, Farmers Grain is a strong, growing farmer-owned cooperative. The cooperative's business units focus on agronomy, energy, grain and risk management and include 11.2 million bushels of grain storage capacity, a fertilizer plant, feed mill, seed treatment facility, bulk fuel sales, a feed and farm supply store, in-house brokerage, insurance and financial credit service and of course the Chisholm Trail Terminal.

A successful CHBP grant for Grant County will develop a county bridge infrastructure that will not only grow the rural agriculture economy but also provide new economic development opportunities. Grant County is well known for their agricultural innovations, including three wind farms and a 120-unit car train loading facility known as Chisholm Trail Terminal operated by Farmers Grain Company and CoMark Equity Alliance that transports grain across the country for export. Although the unit trains have helped to address some of the shipping needs, the county bridges are still being taxed with heavy loads of agriculture goods from the farm to markets.

Rural counties' economies are often built on a foundation provided by agriculture and natural resources. In Grant County, agriculture is the largest industry, generating \$96.8 million in economic output. The 1,920 road miles and 3,000 plus bridge and bridge-like structures in rural Grant County plays a critical role in the movement of agricultural products, manufacturing goods and energy resources from our communities to domestic and global markets. The innovation to bundle 30 plus rural bridges into one single contract is a great engineering decision that will save numerous resources and time and will definitely grow the economy!

For these reasons, on behalf of Farmers Grain Company, the Chisholm Trail Terminal and our Grant County producers, I enthusiastically ask that you give this CHBP grant application your most serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Tim Winter, Eastern Territory Manager

Our mission is to profitably provide quality goods and services with integrity, to enhance our farming community.



PO Box 477 · Pond Creek, OK 73766
(580) 532-4273 · farmersgrainco.com

November 7, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590.
United States

Dear Madame Secretary:

My name is Dakota Martin and I am the location manager at the Nash, Oklahoma, branch of Farmers Grain Company. Farmers Grain Company is an agricultural cooperative with around 100 employees, \$147 million in annual sales, and a net worth of \$50 million. We are located in Grant County, Oklahoma. I am writing this letter in support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant application submitted by Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT).

Our main business is grain storage and marketing. As a cooperative, we are owned by our members, many of whom are producers who grow field crops. The nature of our business, and our member/owners' businesses, rely heavily on Grant County's transportation infrastructure.

Since 2002, Farmers Grain Company has invested more than \$30 million in infrastructure improvements at our 14 facilities. This investment has improved our customer service capabilities and increased our grain storage capacity, efficiency, and convenience, thus enabling us to draw customers from a greater trade territory, including other states. The continued success of our customer growth depends upon good roads and bridges.

Grant County has 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory (NBI). Based upon the ODOT's last bridge summary reports, Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges. That is more than any other county in Oklahoma.

ODOT has submitted three applications for the CHBP grants, with one application focusing on 34 like-kind bridges in Grant County. The bridge proposal includes new innovations of pre-fabrications and time-savings. While this won't totally fix our issues, it is a step in the right direction.

Please approve the Grant County and ODOT CHBP grant application.

Regards,

Dakota Martin
Nash, Oklahoma



PO Box 477 · Pond Creek, OK 73766
(580) 532-4273 · farmersgrainco.com

November 7, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590.
United States

Dear Madame Secretary:

Please accept this letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant application submitted by Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). As General Manager of Farmers Grain Company an agricultural cooperative with several locations in Grant County, I cannot begin to impress upon you the importance that counties roads and bridges play in the overall profitability of our business.

Farmers Grain Company, founded in 1917, is a multi-faceted agribusiness with \$147 million in annual sales, a net worth of \$50 million, and 100 full and part-time employees. Located primarily in Grant County, Oklahoma, the company has 14 locations and the Chisholm Trail Terminal, a train loader facility that exports grain to the Gulf.

Our main business is grain origination, storage, and marketing. As a cooperative, we are owned by our members, many of whom are producers who grow field crops. The nature of our business, and our member/owners' businesses, rely heavily on Grant County's transportation infrastructure. In fact, it is not unusual for around 150 trucks to travel to and from the Chisholm Trail Terminal on a daily basis.

Over the past 15 years, Farmers Grain has invested more than \$30 million in infrastructure improvements at our facilities. This investment has improved our customer service capabilities and increased our grain storage capacity, efficiency, and convenience, thus enabling us to draw customers from a greater trade territory, including other states. The continued success of our customer growth depends upon good roads and bridges.

Grant County has 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory (NBI). Based upon the ODOT's last bridge summary reports, Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges, more than any other county in Oklahoma. ODOT has submitted three applications for the CHBP grants, with one application focusing on the 34 like-kind bridges in Grant County. The bridge proposal includes new innovations of pre-fabrications and time-savings. These proposed improvements are not only needed, but necessary for Grant County to thrive.

I respectfully request that you approve the Grant County and ODOT CHBP grant application.

Regards,

Kent Prickett
General Manager
kprickett@farmersgrain.net



PO Box 477 · Pond Creek, OK 73766
(580) 532-4273 · farmersgrainco.com

November 7, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590.
United States

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing this letter in support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant application submitted by Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT). My name is Jeff Johndrow and I am the Pond Creek Location Manager for Farmers Grain Company, an agricultural cooperative with \$147 million in annual sales, a net worth of \$50 million, and almost 100 employees. Our primary business unit, grain storage and marketing, and the livelihood of our agricultural producers, relies heavily on Grant County's transportation infrastructure.

Since 2002, Farmers Grain Company has invested more than \$30 million in infrastructure improvements at our 14 facilities. This investment has improved our customer service capabilities and increased our grain storage capacity, efficiency, and convenience, thus enabling us to draw customers from a greater trade territory, including other states. The continued success of our customer growth depends upon good roads and bridges.

Grant County has 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory (NBI). Based upon the ODOT's last bridge summary reports, Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges. That is more than any other county in Oklahoma.

ODOT has submitted three applications for the CHBP grants, with one application focusing on 34 bridges in Grant County. The bridge proposal includes new innovations of pre-fabrications and time-savings. These improvements are not only needed but will help secure the future economic growth of Grant County businesses and citizens.

Please approve the Grant County and ODOT CHBP grant application.

Regards,

Jeff Johndrow
Location Manager, Pond Creek



Farmers Grain

C O M P A N Y

P.O. Box 477 . 302 West Broadway
Pond Creek, OK 73771

November 6, 2018

The Esteemed
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

It has been brought to my attention that Grant County has applied to receive the support and funding of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant. This would be an excellent asset for our county to improve our outdated infrastructure and make transportation in our county safer, as well as quicker.

As the manager of the Wakita location of Farmers Grain Company, this grant is crucial to my place of work and the daily customers. We receive and store grain, sell seed, fuel, and other agronomic products. Agriculture is the driving workforce in my community. The replacement of these bridges will allow farmers to get heavy equipment to their fields and make delivering grain and other commodities more efficient. This grant will allow producers to deliver the crops to market in a timely manner and will help myself and my staff tend to producer needs such as fertilizer deliveries and crop scouting.

The Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant will be a tremendous economic boom in our community. The oil and natural gas industry will thrive as well as other industries such as wind power, postal services, etc. I look forward to safer transportation for my fellow citizens and being better able to tend to my customer's needs as we do our part to feed an ever growing world population.

Sincerely,
Lane Newlin
Farmers Grain Company
Wakita Location Manager

November 13, 2018

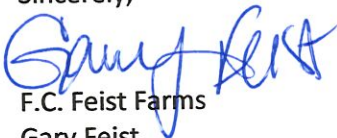
The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

F.C. Feist Farms is a family that has lived in Grant, County, Oklahoma, for many years. We are proud of our State and Grant County. We would like to see continued growth in our economy and agriculture but due to the condition of our 174 structural deficient bridges, this becomes questionable. We would appreciate support for the State of Oklahoma's application for assistance to help them in providing a safe and efficient road and highway system to replace 34 bridges on our rural roads in our county.

We are asking for your support of this worthy project and we feel confident it will help our County to thrive and grow by retaining current jobs and providing new opportunities for our rural area of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,



F.C. Feist Farms
Gary Feist
General Manager
Grant County Oklahoma
Wakita, OK 73771

November 13, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Gary Feist and I am from Wakita in Grant, County, Oklahoma. I am currently a landowner and farmer near Wakita. Our county is in dire need of our 174 bridges to be replaced. We are asking for support for the State of Oklahoma's application for funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in our county.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is seeking financial assistance to help them in providing a safe and efficient road and highway system that will support the economy of small towns, counties, and farms in Grant Oklahoma. This grant will assist in revitalizing the farm, agriculture, and oil production businesses in this part of the state.

We are looking forward to your support of this project. We feel confident it will help our County to grow by retaining current jobs and providing new opportunities for our rural area of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,



Gary Feist
Grant County Oklahoma
Wakita, OK 73771

ORGANIZED



1893

THE FIRST STATE BANK

P.O. BOX 58 / POND CREEK, OKLAHOMA 73766

Mark Scates
Executive Vice President

November 6, 2018

Ms. Elaine Chao
U.S Secretary of Transportation

Dear Ms. Chao,

We were excited to hear about the Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant, which Grant County, Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation have applied for!

Many of the bridges in Grant County, Oklahoma are structurally deficient and are in bad need of replacement or rehabilitation.

As a Grant County Agricultural Lender, we see the need to improve and maintain our local infrastructure to accommodate access for our School Buses to access the students of the County and to allow our Farmers access to the farms that they grow crops and livestock to feed the people of this country and the world.

In closing, we fully recommend this project for Grant County, Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

Mark Scates, EVP

Richard and Jeri Fries
106453 US Highway 60
Lamont, Oklahoma 74643
308-754-3093

November 13, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

It is with great pleasure that I write a letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant submitted in partnership with Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation for a new innovation of bridge bundling.

The efficiency of the American freight system directly impacts our agriculture and energy industries' ability to compete in export markets, with transportation costs being one of the most significant factors impacting our farmers' bottom lines. Inefficient and inadequate transportation infrastructure increases the prices that American consumers pay for goods, negatively impacts local economies—particularly in rural areas – and reduces U.S. competitiveness when exporting these products abroad.

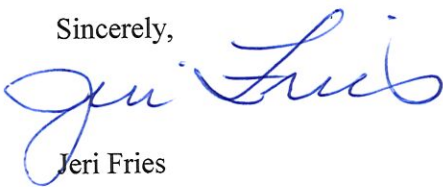
The Chisholm Trail Terminal, a 120-unit car train loading facility, located here in Grant County has added great benefits by opening up a greater number of marketing options nationally and globally. These benefits add to growing, expanding and developing the local, state and national economy! While this has helped address some of our interstate shipping needs, farmers and ranchers still must get crops and livestock from the farm to the market on rural road and bridge infrastructure.

While larger, urban areas are able to utilize more innovative funding and financing options including public-private partnerships, rural areas do not often attract that same interest from the private sector. Direct federal funding is a must for rural areas if they are to keep pace with the nation's food, fiber and natural resource demands.

This CHBP application includes a new innovation not previously used in Oklahoma of bridge bundling to include 34 comparable county-owned structurally deficient bridges in one contract. Bundling provides numerous benefits from costs savings on engineering and single source contracting to time savings in constructing time to distance and detouring time. This particular bundling also includes engineering 3 to 5 bridge standards that all 77 counties can adopt as a county bridge standard, savings counties on future county engineering expenses and time.

In closing, I strongly support the CHBP grant application partnership between the federal, state and county governments. This new innovation will provide another tool in the toolbox to grow the Nation's economy.

Sincerely,



Jeri Fries

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

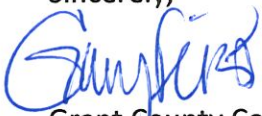
Dear Secretary Chao,

The assistance from the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grants would help provide safe and efficient roads and highways to our farmers, agriculture area, and residents in Grant County. Grant County Cotton Coop would greatly appreciate support for Grant County the State of Oklahoma's application to secure funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in our county.

Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges in the county, which is more than any other county in Oklahoma. Grant County Cotton Coop hauls cotton modules to and from the cotton gin for customers using the deficient bridges and roads, which in return puts a toll on the trucks and parts. The positive change would impact farmers, cotton haulers, grain producers, school buses, all towns, cities and many more involved with the improved bridges in Grant County.

We see improving the bridges as an opportunity for growth in the county. Grant County looks forward to the support for this project. Grant County Cotton Coop feels that this will help our county thrive and grow in further endeavors for this rural area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gumpfer", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Grant County Cotton Coop

CC: J. Michael Patterson, Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation

GSX, INC.
5302 N. US Highway 81
Enid, OK

November 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to convey my strong support for Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, that in partnership, are making an application to the Complete Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant for bridge bundling.

Also, I write as an owner of GSX, INC. GSX, Inc. is an investment concern with in oil and gas interests throughout Grant County, OK, and also owns agriculture land, both of which are the cornerstones of the world economy. Their products are part of the engine that powers many other industries, and products that impact our daily lives. As private equity investors, we are always on the hunt for businesses with strong profits that resistant to economic downturns and have little risk for new competition. With those criteria, oil and gas is a winning industry.

There are many facets involved with an investment business, but the biggest aspects in reviewing properties to purchase are location, location, location! Infrastructure, specifically road and bridge infrastructure can make a big difference on the return in investment – the bottom dollar – or even considered if we would invest in the property.

Grant County is a great geographical location with low property taxes; however, the bridge infrastructure is challenging. In Oklahoma property taxes legally cannot go to fund road and bridge infrastructure. Therefore, roads and bridges are funded through user fees (gas tax, vehicle tags) and gross production, which is not keeping up with inflation.

Grant County is responsible for over 3,000 bridge and bridge-like structures, including 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory with 174 county-owned bridges rated as structurally deficient. Bridges are an integral part of, not only Grant County's infrastructure, but more importantly in America's infrastructure. The new innovation to bundle 34 of the county owned structurally deficient bridges into one contact make economic sense and will deliver a return of money and time expeditiously.

In closing, this CHBP grant application will go a long way toward achieving economic success. Thank you for your consideration.

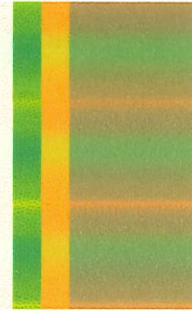
Sincerely,

GSX, INC.


Paul Youngblood
President

SUE HARDEN INSURANCE
HARDEN FARM
'ARC' HARDEN WELDING L.L.C. (PARTNER)

77195 Latimer Rd
Manchester, OK 73758
PH 580 694 2359
EMAIL: sueharden00@gmail.com



November 9, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao,

I live and operate my insurance business and partnerships in Grant County, Oklahoma. We have an excellent county commissioner, Max Hess. Max is diligent and responsible in using all funds, (including Resolution 2018-144) awarded to our county by improving the roads and bridges. I believe you can trust him to use any and all grant funds allocated to construct the best bridges possible in our county.

The 34 bridges in need of repair are used by local farmers, oilfield employees and residents. Young people are moving back into this area to farm and work for the oilfield companies. Our son, Garet and his wife relocated a ½ mile from us in September of 2018. He is going to raise his family here and is venturing into raising cotton on 4 quarters of land he has rented. Cotton modules are heavy and bridges in our rural area need to sustain this added load being driven over them from late Oct. till January.

My family has farmed 7-11 miles south of the Kansas line since the 1930's. We look forward to continuing this tradition for many years to come. Please support us in this endeavor by providing us with the rural financial support we need.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue E. Harden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'E'.

Sue E Harden

Self-employed farmer

Insurance Agent

Partner in 'ARC' Harden Welding L.L.C.

HAWLEY SERVICES INC

25463 CR 800

NASH OK 73761

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Steven Nellson, I own and operate Hawley Services Inc. a trucking company based out of Grant County Oklahoma.

Hawley Services Inc. has 22 trucks and 40 employees that work inside of 5 northwest Oklahoma counties, with Grant County being the primary county.

Weak, narrow, and unserviceable bridges within Grant County, cause Hawley Services Inc. many delays and extra miles on a daily basis. More so than any of the other 4 counties that Hawley Services works in.

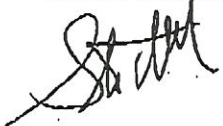
Grant County terrain is flat with highly erodible soil, resulting in a lot of creeks. This causes us to have an unusually large number of large bridges. More bridge structures than any of the other 76 Oklahoma counties.

Grant County is very productive in agriculture and oil & gas. We take great pride in our productivity and use with great effect any funding or tools at our disposal.

I am very pleased to learn of the federal grant opportunity coming through the Competitive Highway Bridge Program. And hope Grant County can receive some relief to a serious problem.

Thank you so very much.

Steven Nellson



November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Grant County, Oklahoma in conjunction with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is applying for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant. As a rural citizen of Grant County, I am excited to see Federal investment in the backbone of America. Long have we supplied to all but ourselves. It will be much appreciated to see a little quid pro quo.

I chose to raise my children in a rural setting. They learned how to be good neighbors and citizens, how to manage their animals and their time, and how to always return something borrowed, in better shape than they received the item. The oil companies utilized our roads and did provide some rock. My husband's heavy equipment business and his Uncle's before him, helped to take care of the roads. The farmers provide grains & meat to the public at large. I believe it is time for some Federal monies to come back and take care of us. Yes, I chose to live in the "boonies", but I believe we deserve a little of what everyone else has: roads that won't take out the bottom of your car and easy access to get to the doctor or grocery store.

I understand that this is a bridge grant, not road grant. Please be aware that if the grant money was available to take care of the bridges in our area, then the Grant county's money would be free to take better care of roads. It will make life easier for the school bus, hauling grains to the elevator, and cattle/oil to market.

Thank you for your consideration of this grant. I know Grant County and it's many citizens will appreciate the investment in our community. The grant will certainly assist our many businesses that utilize these roads.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Hendrick
Grant County Land & Livestock Owner

**Hernfarm
Rodney & Pat Hern
33239 County Road 810
Wakita, OK 73771**

November 11, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,


Please consider Grant County District # 1 to receive the grant in the Competitive Highway Bridge Program for our area.

As a farmer/rancher, we use our county roads & bridges to move from field to field when farming our land as well as hauling the crops we grow to our local grain elevators and on to the regional terminals.

We also have a cow/calf operation and need these improvements in our infrastructure in transporting our livestock.

We ask that you kindly approve this grant to help our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney Hern". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Rodney Hern
Owner/Operator

Hess Farms

Edgar E. Hess
758 6th St.
Manchester, OK 73758

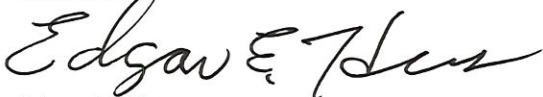
Nov. 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
Us Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 2590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I have been a farmer for several years in Grant County. There are quite a few bridges in my area that needs attention. It would help greatly in our area to have these bridges updated to help farmers get their crops brought into the elevators.

Hess Farms

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edgar E. Hess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "E" and "H".

Edgar E. Hess

Hess Farms

Sherry Lynn Hess
758 6th St.
Manchester, OK 73758

Nov. 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
Us Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 2590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I have been a farmer wife for several years in Grant County. I have help with the farming (driving tractors and trucks during the summer months).

There are quite a few bridges in my area that needs attention. It would help greatly in our area to have these bridges updated to help farmers get their crops brought into the elevators.

Hess Farms


Sherry Lynn Hess

K & K DIESEL, LLC.
PO BOX 95
MANCHESTER, OK 73758
580-694-2304

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I, John Kerr, owner of K & K Diesel in Grant county Oklahoma support resolution #2018-144 of Grant county Oklahoma for Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant. This grant would secure funding to replace 34 bad bridges on our rural roads.

K & K Diesel is a mechanic shop with three service trucks and a semi wrecker that requires good roads & bridges to support the weight. It would allow us to reach more customers and reach them safely, plus increase our bottom line for our company and our county.

Respectfully,

John Kerr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kerr", written in a cursive style.



November 13, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

RE: Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

As stated in our mission statement, KanOkla Telephone Association's purpose is "to improve the lives of our members and KanOkla communities". KanOkla whole heartedly supports Grant County and Oklahoma Department of Transportation application for the Funding Opportunity for Rural States For Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) Grant.

KanOkla is a high speed broadband company that has been serving our cooperative members for 67 years, gradually expanding our footprint since 1951. Last summer, we added 387 square miles to our wire-line area in Oklahoma, just southeast of our current exchange boundaries. Our small rural farming communities and staff rely heavily on a safe and efficient road and highway system.

Rural and small-town Oklahoma is remote, hard-working, full of outdoor recreation and wide open for innovation in commerce, digital health care, education, government services, security, Smart Farm and Smart Home as location is no longer a barrier. KanOkla is very involved in the economic development of all of the communities in our telephone exchanges, and we take pride in endorsing an endeavor such as this. We look forward to hearing that Grant County and Oklahoma Department of Transportation was awarded the CHBP Grant and seeing the positive result that replacing bridges can do for the county's roadway infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Kuehny', is written over a white background.

Jill Kuehny
Chief Executive Officer

www.kanokla.com
customerservice@kanokla.com

Headquarters
100 KanOkla Ave
Caldwell, KS 67022
T • 800.526.6552

Shidler Office
120 Broadway St
Shidler, OK 74652
T • 918.793.2211

KanOkla Store
21 N Main St
Caldwell, KS 67022
T • 866.526.6552

Kloefkorn Trucking LLC
1647 Main Street
Manchester Oklahoma

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I fully support the State of Oklahoma's application for funding to replace 34 bridges in Grant County. This Grant, will increase our companies ability to serve our customers safely.

Our business is located in Grant County, and is agriculture based. We regularly haul off the farm and out of the field for our customers. Improving the bridges in Grant County will benefit both, our customers and us.

I feel this project will benefit the entire area in serviceability and safety. I am looking forward to serving the area more efficiently and safely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ron Kloefkorn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ron Kloefkorn
Owner
Kloefkorn Trucking LLC

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

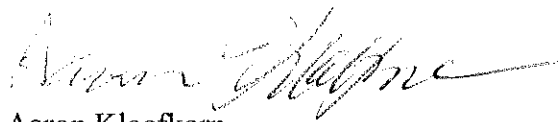
Dear Secretary Chao:

As a Grant County Farmer, I support the State of Oklahoma's application for funding to replace 34 bridges in rural Grant County. This will increase the safety for area farmers moving equipment and getting crops to market.

There are several bridge type structures in Grant County that are difficult to move equipment across, or simply not safe to cross with equipment. These situations are a burden to my way of earning a living and a safety concern for everyone in the area. Farm equipment is large, heavy, and some of it is difficult to transport. Larger and stronger bridges are a must for farmers, like me, to be able to move equipment from field to field safely.

I feel this project is crucial to our local farmers' safety and way of life. I am looking forward to your support, improving my area's safety and growth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Kloefkorn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Aaron Kloefkorn

Grant County Farmer



KRETCHMAR DISTRIBUTING, INC.

WWW.OKGRASSHOPPER.COM

MOWING OKLAHOMA IN HALF THE TIME SINCE 1972

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a 5th generation Grant County citizen, I respectfully request your consideration of Grant County in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation as recipients of funds from the Federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program grants (CHBP).

Kretchmar Distributing, Inc. (KDI) was started by my grandfather in 1972. KDI is an authorized factory Distributor of commercial Grasshopper lawnmowers and parts for Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle. KDI also provides service to many farmers and commercial business within Oklahoma and Texas. It is important to the livelihood of our business to be able to deliver equipment and parts to our rural customers in a safe and timely manner. However, it is my understanding that Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges which is more than any other county within the State of Oklahoma.

As a lifetime resident and landowner in Grant County, it is important to preserve the rural lifestyle for future generations. The county's infrastructure is imperative to the survival of Grant County, Oklahoma.

I made the choice to stay in a rural community to raise my children and continue the tradition that my family has built over the last 5 generations, but without proper infrastructure it becomes more difficult every year to at least not consider moving our business to a larger metropolitan area. Therefore, please note that Kretchmar Distributing, Inc. (KDI) is in complete support of Grant County being one of the recipients of these funds.

I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Tyler Kretchmar
Operations Manager
Kretchmar Distributing, Inc.

94044 Grady Road
Medford, OK 73759

November 11, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

This letter is being written in full support of the application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) and Grant County.

Grant County, like all of America's rural counties, had previously experienced declining populations due to aging; however, people are moving back to rural Grant County! Family ties, increased opportunities for outdoor recreation for the whole family, starting a new business and hiring employees, assuming leadership positions, volunteering and fuller participation in school sports for my children all motivated me to move back to Grant County years ago. In turn, this has spurred economic growth and economic development in Grant County.

I have started, built and successfully owned several businesses that I operated out of Grant County, from mowing lawns to a grocery store to oil field service supply activities, all businesses have not only thrived but have financially excelled adding to and growing the Nation's economy.

Grant County has the most bridges and fifth highest number of road miles in the entire State of Oklahoma yet their funding ranks 63rd out of 77 counties. Of the 3,000 plus bridge and bridge-like structures, 174 are rated structurally deficient. Since 2000 Oklahoma has consistently ranked as one of the worst states on the national list of structurally deficient bridges. Oklahoma's ranking is due to the high number of county owned structurally deficient bridges not the state owned bridges.

Ensuring a sound bridge infrastructure will make a big impact to continue our economic growth for not only schools, rural mail carriers, emergency services, etc., but for businesses and residents alike! Grant County's current bridge infrastructure must be improved to continue moving businesses and other projects forward.

What's good for Grant County is good for America. Please give this CHBP grant application a favorable review.

Sincerely,



Shane Krittenbrink

Lanie Farms
80574 McClain Rd
Manchester, Oklahoma 73758

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao,

It has been brought to our attention a Funding Opportunity for rural states to compete for \$225,000,000 Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grants is available.

Oklahoma has consistently ranked as one of the worst states with structurally deficient bridges.

Grant County located just south of the Kansas state line in north central Oklahoma has over 3,000 bridges and bridge-like structures including 174 structurally deficient bridges. A bridge structure west of my house is a WPA built structure and many more are located in Grant County. It is my understanding these were built during the 1930s.

Age, larger equipment, and trucks have made many of the structures unsafe to carry the loads. Farm tractors, implements, combines, and trucks all weigh significantly more than when the bridges were built. Fifty years ago a farm truck and its load weighed 20,000 lbs. Now the farm truck and its load weigh 80,000 lbs.

We are requesting Grant County, Oklahoma be awarded a Competitive Bridge Program grant as requested by are county commissioners.

Sincerely,

Handy Lemi *Grant Lemi* *Keith Lemi* *Shayla Lemi*
Gene Choduris

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao,

Grant County would greatly appreciate support for the State of Oklahoma's application to secure funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in our county. The assistance from the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grants would help provide safe and efficient roads and highways to our farmers, agriculture area, and residents in Grant County.

Grant County has 174 structurally deficient bridges in the county, which is more than any other county in Oklahoma. Everyone in Grant County including all towns and cities would have a positive impact with the improved bridges. To mention some that would have a positive impact: Farmers like myself, grain producers, cotton haulers, school buses, and many more.

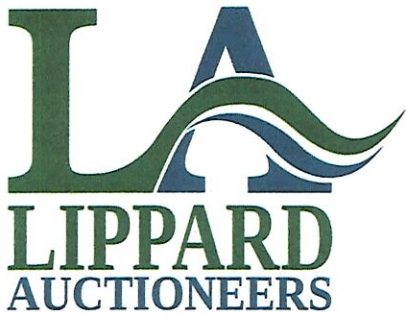
We see improving the bridges as an opportunity for growth in the county. Grant County looks forward to the support for this project. We feel that this will help our county thrive and grow in further endeavors for this rural area.

Sincerely,



Caleb & Lauren Brown,
Owner Lazy Bar B Land & Cattle Co.

CC: J. Michael Patterson, Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation



Lippard Auctioneers

2609 N. Van Buren

Enid, OK 73703

580-761-4855

Jst450@yahoo.com

November 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to offer my letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge program (CHBP) grant application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. This grant application has been submitted for consideration by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in partnership with Grant County Oklahoma.

Lippard Auctioneers has been in the business since 1986 and has carried forward the tradition of integrity, innovation and outstanding service. As one of Oklahoma's leading auction companies we provide complete service for your auction from start to finish. Today Lippard auctioneers sells property through Oklahoma and at least 7 other states and Lippard has sold more than one billion dollars of real estate.

I have been with Lippard auctioneers for 18 years and have seen over the years that location is a major factor in getting people to invest in property whether it is for agriculture, outdoor recreation such as hunting and off roading, or for building business and homes in the community. Farmland is being purchased for dual purpose farming/ranching and outdoor recreation, and this is adding to our economy.

A successful CHBP grant for Grant County will develop a county bridge infrastructure that will help grow the rural agriculture economy which will drive the price of land up. It is important that land owners, farmers, hunters and anyone wanting to purchase land are able to get to their properties. I encourage you to approve the CHBP grant because it would enhance our ability to get to and from our grant county land which will help our economy grow.

Sincerely yours,

Jayton Tautfest

Real estate associate, Auctioneer



Little B's Construction, Inc.

Oil & Gas Construction

November 13, 2018

Secretary Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a lifetime resident, farmer, and business owner of Grant County, I am sending this letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program grant for which the ODOT and Grant County Commissioners are applying. Grant County residents and business owners rely heavily on quality roads and bridges. We are an agricultural community, but we also service the oil and gas industries in the area, as well as the most recent alternative energies generated by the windmill industry.

We appreciate your review of our grant application and consideration to our county - Grant County, Oklahoma. We are a thriving, small community; a great place to raise a family, start a business or simply belong. We ask you take a long, serious look at our county and strongly encourage you to consider us when making your CHBP awards.

Best regards,

Kevin Bushnell
President

Manchester Mfg Co.
1647 Main Street - P.O. Box 36
Manchester, Oklahoma 73758

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

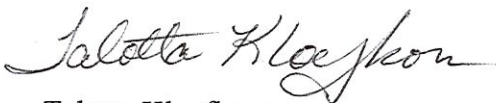
Dear Secretary Chao:

I fully support the State of Oklahoma's application for funding to replace 34 bridges in rural Grant County. This will allow more efficient and safer transport of the areas agriculture commodities, and help increase profitability for our area.

Our business is located in Grant County, and is agriculture based. As a Manufacturer of agriculture parts and equipment, I feel, any benefit to our customers is a benefit to us. The increase in profit, for area agriculture, should have a positive affect on all business.

I feel this project will benefit all business in the area. I am looking forward to your support in boosting my area's economy and safety.

Sincerely,



Talotta Kloefkorn

Manchester Mfg. Co.



Miller EMS
514 N 1st, PO box 65
Medford, OK 73759

November 8, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

This letter is being written in support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being applied for in partnership with Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) utilizing the new innovation of bridge bundling.

When you're living in rural America, sometime you might expect to live without a lot of extra frills that city people take for granted = theatre, opera, cinema and film, and the like. Even more desirable services, such as cell phone and internet, can be sparse. It's the price you pay for living in some of the most beautiful parts of the country.


But medical emergencies, such as strokes, heart attacks and cardiac arrest, happen in rural settings along with critical trauma events, such as high speed crashes and agricultural incidents. Minutes can make a difference in these situations, regardless of their location and distance to an appropriate medical facility. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is an integral part of health care and is especially important in rural and less densely populated areas.

The transportation infrastructure is one of the major contributing factors for reliable EMS serviceability and patient outcome. Understanding dependency of EMS on transportation infrastructure requires a multi-faceted analysis incorporating diverse information such as EMS dispatch locations, distance and time traveled to the scene, and grid and condition of the road and bridge infrastructure.

A focus to upgrade rural bridges will help the health and safety of so many of our rural communities and decrease the number of fatalities on our roads. Safety equals lives saved. Lives saved equals those who can work, contribute, grow and develop our Nation's economy. No one life is more important than another life- rural or urban.

In closing, I ask that you give positive consideration to the CHBP Grant Application from Grant County and the Oklahoma DOT for the bundling of 34 county bridges, which would be a notable improvement to the infrastructure for a quicker response network.

Sincerely,


Matthew L. Miller
Owner/Director
Miller EMS

Mr.H Canvas

Steve Hendrix Owner/Operator
213 S. 4th
Pond Creek, Ok 73766

11/9/2018

US Secretary of Transportation

Dear Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao,

It is my honor to contact you about the opportunity to receive a Grant from the Federal Highway Administration for replacement or rehabilitation of deficient bridges in Grant County, Oklahoma. It is my hope that Grant County, Oklahoma might receive a monetary Grant from the Competitive Highway Bridge Program to help with these projects.

As a former School Administrator, the safety of our county school children is of great concern to me. School Bus travel over unsafe bridges is unacceptable. Grant County has always done a great job with the resources allocated to them. The additional funds will help make more of the County bridges safe.

I give my full support to Grant County in making this Grant application. I am looking forward to seeing the complete the bridge projects with additional help from the CHBP grant. It will be well appreciated by our community. Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve R. Hendrix

Clay A. Muegge
16489 County Road 1060
Lamont, OK 74643

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

It is an honor to write to you on behalf of my energy production company regarding a very important issue. First, I want to tell you a little bit about our business. Our oil and gas production company is a small business that is headquartered south of Lamont, Oklahoma. Lamont is situated in Grant County. We are 85 miles south of Wichita, Kansas and 85 miles north of Oklahoma City. Lamont and surrounding country is a proud community of 420 residents.

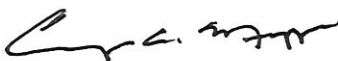
It has come to our attention that Grant County leaders are applying for the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. The Grant County Resolution is identified as #2018-144.

Please add us to your list of supporters who believe the subject grant will be used advantageously for the people of Grant County and, indeed, the citizens of the United States. Grant County has many small bridges in the county, and the need for new construction is critical. As you can imagine, a county with a population of about 4,600 has hundreds of miles of dirt roads. Gravel roads are a luxury! Yet, the people of Grant County and the products they sell are the backbone of our nation's economy. Currently, our family is in the process of working on several oil and gas wells, which will increase tax revenues for our schools and state budget. In addition, the added income will help us to staff one more person in our office. None of the tax revenue will be possible if we do not have access to our energy-producing locations. Already, many roads have been abandoned. It is critical that we have good infrastructure. Countless times over the years, our county government has had to close roads due to failing bridges. This grant might be the saving grace on about 30-40 bridges in our area that need to be replaced instead of being abandoned. We welcome the support!

As a side note, I want to voice our support of our local government leadership. They follow the example of the current U.S. administration when it comes to trying to be good stewards of the funds they are given. They can stretch a dollar farther than most. If you were to ever visit Grant County, I have no doubt that you would find that taxpayer money has been used wisely.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Clay A. Muegge

NOVEMBER 8, 2018

COMMISSIONER CINDY BOBBITT
GRANT COUNTY COURTHOUSE
MEDFORD, OKLAHOMA 73759

DEAR COMMISSIONER CINDY,

JUST YESTERDAY CLAY MENTIONED THAT I NEEDED TO WRITE YOU A LETTER CONCERNING RURAL GRANT COUNTY, OK BRIDGES. AFTER HE MENTIONED IT, IT CAUSED ME TO STOP AND RECALL SOME INTERESTING INCIDENTS CONCERNING OUR BRIDGES.

MY FIRST STORY BEGINS IN JUNE, OF 1960. MY DAD INVITED ME TO COME WORK FOR HIM IN OUR SMALL BANK IN DECEMBER OF 1959 AFTER FINISHING COLLEGE AND SOME ACTIVE DUTY IN THE US AIR FORCE. IT BECAME HARVEST TIME THAT YEAR, AND WE WERE BOTH AT WORK AND HE GOT A CALL FROM A FRIEND SAYING THERE HAD BEEN AN ACCIDENT TWO MILES EAST AND TWO MILES NORTH OF LAMONT. WE BOTH GOT IN HIS CAR AND HEADED TO THE SCENE. AS WE APPROACHED, WE COULD SEE A WHEAT TRUCK WITH ITS NOSE IN THE AIR AND ABOUT TO FALL IN A CREEK. THE BRIDGE HAD GIVEN WAY UNDER THE PRESSURE OF A TWO HUNDRED BUSHEL LOAD OF WHEAT. ELMER SCHUERMANN, THE OWNER OF THE TRUCK, SAID "ARCHEL, I OWE THE BANK ON THIS TRUCK. WHAT ARE WE DOING TO DO ABOUT IT?" DAD ASSURED HIM TO NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW. HE SAID "JUST BE GLAD YOU WEREN'T HURT".

FAST FORWARD TO THE MID -NINETEEN NINETIES: I HAD RECENTLY PURCHASED A NEW JOHN DEERE COMBINE. I WAS SO PROUD OF IT AND REALLY DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY TO DRIVE IT BUT ME. ONE DAY DURING HARVEST I WAS MOVING FROM ONE FIELD TO ANOTHER AND CAME UPON AN OLD THREE SIDED CULVERT PROBABLY BUILT IN THE 1920'S. THE LOCATION IS 5 EAST OF SALT FORK, 1 MILE NORTH AND 50 YARDS EAST. IT HAD ALWAYS HELD ALL OF OUR EQUIPMENT IN THE PAST BUT AS MY FRONT TIRES TOPPED THE CULVERT. IT COMPLETELY FELL IN AND THE FRAME OF THE COMBINE HIT THE GROUND WHILE THE FEEDER HOUSE CAUGHT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CULVERT. CERTAINLY THE STOP WAS SUDDEN, BUT AGAIN NO ONE WAS HURT.

AGAIN, FAST FORWARD TO 2018 WHERE FARMERS HAVE EVEN BIGGER COMBINES AND NOW MOST TRUCKS CARRY 1000 BUSHEL OF GRAIN AND THE BRIDGES ARE STILL CALLED UPON TO HOLD ALL THIS WEIGHT EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE 70 OR MORE YEARS OLD. THEY WERE NOT DESIGNED FOR SUCH LOADS AND THERE WILL BE MORE AND MORE ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY THESE FAILING BRIDGES.

IN FACT WE HAVE ONE FARM THAT REQUIRES US TO DRIVE ACROSS AN UNSAFE BRIDGE AS IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO THE FIELD. SO WHAT ARE WE TO DO. I GENERALLY GET IN THE COMBINE, APPROACH THE BRIDGE, STOP, SAY A SHORT PRAYER, AND CROSS THE BRIDGE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. I SAY THIS WITH TONGUE IN CHEEK, BUT THE ALTERNATIVE IS TO LEAVE THE WHEAT UNCUT IN THE FIELD WHICH IS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ME.

SO THANKS AGAIN TO YOU, COMMISSIONER, FOR TRYING TO GET SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR RURAL BRIDGES. THE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS CAN NOT COME ANY TOO SOON.

MY BEST,


DON E. MUEGGE

GRANT COUNTY RESIDENT AND PATRON OF YOUR DISTRICT
16489 COUNTY ROAD 1060
LAMONT, OK 74643

Muegge Farms
16489 County Road 1060
Lamont, OK 74643

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Greetings from northcentral Oklahoma! It is an honor to write to you on behalf of Muegge Farms. Our farm is family-owned, and our headquarters are located three miles south of Lamont, OK. Lamont is situated in Grant County. We are 85 miles south of Wichita, Kansas and 85 miles north of Oklahoma City. Lamont and surrounding country is a proud community of 420 residents.

It has come to our attention that Grant County leaders are applying for the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. The Grant County Resolution is identified as #2018-144.

Please add Muegge Farms to your list of supporters who believe the subject grant will be used advantageously for the people of Grant County and, indeed, the citizens of the United States. Grant County has many small bridges in the county, and the need for new construction is critical. As you can imagine, a county with a population of about 4,600 has hundreds of miles of dirt roads. Gravel roads are a luxury! Yet, the people of Grant County and the products they sell are the backbone of our nation's economy. Currently, our family is in the middle of soybean harvest. It is critical that we have good infrastructure. Countless times over the years, our county government has had to close roads due to failing bridges. This grant might be the saving grace on about 30-40 bridges in our area that need to be replaced instead of being abandoned. We welcome the support!

As a side note, I want to voice our support of our local government leadership. They follow the example of the current U.S. administration when it comes to trying to be good stewards of the funds they are given. They can stretch a dollar farther than most. If you were to ever visit Grant County, I have no doubt that you would find that taxpayer money has been used wisely.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chad F. Muegge

Muegge Feeders
16489 County Road 1060
Lamont, OK 74643

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

It is an honor to write to you on behalf of Muegge Feeders regarding a very important issue. First, I want to tell you a little bit about our business. Our cattle feeding operation is family-owned, and our headquarters are located three miles south and east of Lamont, OK. We take the best of our crops and natural resources and produce some of the best beef in the world. Lamont is situated in Grant County. We are 85 miles south of Wichita, Kansas and 85 miles north of Oklahoma City. Lamont and surrounding country is a proud community of 420 residents.

It has come to our attention that Grant County leaders are applying for the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. The Grant County Resolution is identified as #2018-144.

Please add Muegge Feeders to your list of supporters who believe the subject grant will be used advantageously for the people of Grant County and, indeed, the citizens of the United States. Grant County has many small bridges in the county, and the need for new construction is critical. As you can imagine, a county with a population of about 4,600 has hundreds of miles of dirt roads. Gravel roads are a luxury! Yet, the people of Grant County and the products they sell are the backbone of our nation's economy. Currently, our family is in the middle of shipping cattle to our nation's beef packers. At the same time, we are putting cattle on winter pastures for later marketing opportunities. NONE of this is possible if we do not have access to our farms. Already, many roads have been abandoned. It is critical that we have good infrastructure. Countless times over the years, our county government has had to close roads due to failing bridges. This grant might be the saving grace on about 30-40 bridges in our area that need to be replaced instead of being abandoned. We welcome the support!

As a side note, I want to voice our support of our local government leadership. They follow the example of the current U.S. administration when it comes to trying to be good stewards of the funds they are given. They can stretch a dollar farther than most. If you were to ever visit Grant County, I have no doubt that you would find that taxpayer money has been used wisely.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chad F. Muegge
Owner

Muegge Freight Lines, LLC
16489 County Road 1060
Lamont, OK 74643

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

It is an honor to write to you on behalf of Muegge Freight Lines, LLC regarding a very important issue. First, I want to tell you a little bit about our business. Our trucking company is a small business that is headquartered south of Lamont, Oklahoma. Lamont is situated in Grant County. We are 85 miles south of Wichita, Kansas and 85 miles north of Oklahoma City. Lamont and surrounding country is a proud community of 420 residents.

It has come to our attention that Grant County leaders are applying for the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. The Grant County Resolution is identified as #2018-144.

Please add Muegge Freight Lines, LLC to your list of supporters who believe the subject grant will be used advantageously for the people of Grant County and, indeed, the citizens of the United States. Grant County has many small bridges in the county, and the need for new construction is critical. As you can imagine, a county with a population of about 4,600 has hundreds of miles of dirt roads. Gravel roads are a luxury! Yet, the people of Grant County and the products they sell are the backbone of our nation's economy. Currently, our family is in the middle of shipping cattle to our nation's beef packers and soybeans to our local co-ops. Ultimately, the grain will be shipped to the Gulf Coast for export. But, it all starts with our trucks going down dirt roads and over dangerously old bridges in Grant County. NONE of the exports are possible if we do not have access to our farms. Already, many roads have been abandoned. It is critical that we have good infrastructure. Countless times over the years, our county government has had to close roads due to failing bridges. This grant might be the saving grace on about 30-40 bridges in our area that need to be replaced instead of being abandoned. We welcome the support!

As a side note, I want to voice our support of our local government leadership. They follow the example of the current U.S. administration when it comes to trying to be good stewards of the funds they are given. They can stretch a dollar farther than most. If you were to ever visit Grant County, I have no doubt that you would find that taxpayer money has been used wisely.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Chad F. Muegge
Owner

NAPA KELLEY'S AUTO PARTS

CLAY KELLEY, OWNER
324 N. 1st St.
Medford, Ok 73759
(580)395-2860

November 8, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

My name is Clay Kelley, I am the current owner of Kelley's Auto Parts store in Medford, Oklahoma. I am writing this letter in support of the county where my business and home is located. Grant County is a small rural farming community in North Central Oklahoma. Our community is seeking funding to replace numerous bridges on our rural country roads. Without financial support for Grant County, we will not be able to provide safe and efficient roads and highway systems for our local farmers, as well as, our many families who have children that use the school bus systems to attend local schools.

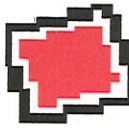
Grant County is an area full of numerous farming families and many with school age children. Every day they place their children on school buses expecting them to arrive safely to school. How can we insure their safety with poorly constructed roads and bridges? Mail carriers, farmers, grain producers, and other professions travel these poorly constructed roads as well. The constant wear on their vehicles and equipment cost them valuable dollars on a daily basis. By improving our roads and bridges, this would allow children to safely attend schools and other professions to be able to have economic growth.

Grant County desperately needs your help. By financially supporting this county with better roads and bridges you will be allowing our small rural community to flourish. You will also be allowing our students a better opportunity arriving safely at school, mail carriers being more efficient with their time on the job, farmers the possibility of seeing a financial growth opportunity. Thank you for taking the time to review my concerns.

Proud to a business owner in Grant County,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael C. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Michael C. Kelley



The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. The Oklahoma DOT, in partnership with Grant County, would use these grant funds to repair and/or replace structurally deficient bridges on the county highway system.

Bridges are an integral part of the overall economy of the United States, and these funds will help rural states and counties ensure that their bridges remain safe and well-maintained. Currently Grant County has the most structurally deficient bridges in the state of Oklahoma. This CHBP grant would allow county bridges of like-kind structure to be bundled into a single contract.

Oklahoma DOT and Grant County are seeking an innovative approach to maintain mobility and ensure resiliency. The plan is to bundle bridges with a large number of structures into one contract using a design, build, finance delivery model. In this way, a large number of structures can be addressed in a much shorter time period, saving both time and money.

The CHBP funding for Grant County will serve people in a 1000 square mile area in north central Oklahoma along the Kansas border. As Native Energy is the prime contractor for the ARM SGP site it is imperative our staff (historically 30 plus employees) be able to access site. The site is staffed seven days a week and conducts world class scientific research. Beyond our own staff being able to access the site, we host researchers from agencies such as NASA, NOAA, NREL, many Universities and other institutions both foreign and domestic for scientific campaigns. The SGP site is also the central depot for spares and instrument platform deployments for worldwide use, thus we have shipments from FedEx daily and other carriers very frequently.

Thank you for your consideration for the Oklahoma DOT and Grant County grant application.

Sincerely,

John R Schatz
Site Operations Manager



Robert Parrish • Agricultural Economics, M.S.
13833 County Road 1030
Hunter, OK 74640
E-mail: robert.parrish@okstate.edu
Cell: 580.532.5055

November 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

It is with great pleasure I write this letter of support to the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. The Oklahoma DOT and Grant County have partnered to submit this grant. As a rural resident of Grant County, part of a family farming operation as a 4th generation farmer, and a local first responder I depend on the bridges and bridge-like structures in Grant County to help with safe paths to check farmland, going to town or respond to an emergency.

Agriculture is a major industry in Grant County. Wheat production is one of the major crops produced in Grant County with an estimated 8,330,000 bushels of wheat harvested in 2017 (USDA-NASS, County Estimated Wheat 2017 Report) with a value of approximately \$33.3 million if sold at \$4 per bushel. This wheat travels over several bridges to get to market in Grant County. Many bridges are decades old with weight limits been reduced, forcing producers to take alternate paths adding extra cost in transportation. With this grant it would help solve this problem letting producers take the most direct path saving time and money that they can use in their operation.

As a local Firefighter/EMT seconds matter when someone calls 911 for a medical or fire emergency. Many of our emergency apparatus weighing several tons they may not be able to travel over several of the bridges that have weight restrictions, this could cause delay in the response to the emergency. If Grant County is chosen for this grant, the response time would be reduced benefiting the affected person that require 911 attention.

If Grant County is chosen for the CHBP Rural Bridge Grant, they will be able to bundle the grant money and get as many as 34 bridges replaced. By bundling, they save thousands of grant dollars because they will be able to bid the bridges with one bid package. This proves that the commissioners are dedicated in using the grant money wisely.

Please support Grant County as a recipient of the CHBP Rural Bridge Grant. These funds won't just replace bridges; it will provide much quicker response times for first responders benefiting all residents of Grant County. With Grant County being at the top of the list of deficient bridges nationwide, I hope they will be selected so that bridges can be replaced and can provide more direct access.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Parrish

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L Chao
Us Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

As a farmer in Grant County Oklahoma, I support the State of Oklahoma's application to secure funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in our north central Oklahoma county. The financial assistance The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is seeking, will help the economy in our part of the state. It will help in our revitalization of the agricultural and oil production businesses in northern Oklahoma and make our roads safer and more efficient.

It is rural counties like Grant County Oklahoma that help feed the world. It can be a challenge to get modern equipment down county roads in order to plant and then harvest the crops. Alternate routes are sometimes required to get the crops to market. This project will help us in our endeavors. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bryan L Patterson

Grant County Oklahoma

POND CREEK PALLETS INC.

PO BOX 224

POND CREEK OK 73766

580-984-2042



November 13, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L Chao, Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madam Chao,

I am sending this letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grants that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Grant County, Oklahoma, Commissioners are applying for. These grants will make it possible for Grant County to get almost twenty percent (20%) of their deficient bridges upgraded. This will be a tremendous boost to Grant County. Our small rural county is primarily funded by agriculture. Our roads must be in shape to be able to get our products to market in a timely manner.

The Grant County Commissioners work diligently to spend our hard-earned tax dollars on projects that will impact the most citizens. By working with ODOT on these grants Grant County will be able to make sure our infrastructure is in prime condition for years to come. Our roads not only affect our marketability but our emergency services and getting our youth to and from school.

Thank you for reviewing our grant application. We are eagerly awaiting your final decision.

Sincerely,

Joey G Hayes, Owner





November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

It has come to my attention that the State of Oklahoma, through the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has applied for grant funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in Grant County, Oklahoma. As store manager for PrairieLand Partners, in Anthony, Kansas, I would like to express that this funding would not only benefit our customers in Oklahoma but would also be of great benefit to our business.

As a John Deere dealer, our service trucks are often dispatched to farms in the Grant County area. The first part of any service call is getting to the customer's location. Good roads and safe bridges are paramount in the process of going on a service call. Customers that need service calls are usually either cultivating, planting, reaping or baling their crops. Time is of an essence. If a technician is confronted with a detour, a bridge out or a road impassable due to its condition it not only costs our company in added fuel costs and wear and tear on vehicles but costs the customer in additional labor charges. Having access to good roads and safe bridges is of utmost importance.

Our salesmen routinely travel the roads in Grant County, Oklahoma, to make on-the-farm visits with our customers. The roads and bridges are our lifeline to gain access to our customers to grow our business.

Furthermore, our store employs residents of Grant County, Oklahoma. It is vitally important that they and their families have access to roads that are safe to travel on and bridges that are safe to cross.

In closing, I would ask that you sincerely consider the application by the State of Oklahoma for the funding they have requested in Grant County. This funding would not only benefit the residents of Oklahoma but those of us that do business in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat Myers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "P" and "M".

Pat Myers
Manager
PrairieLand Partners, Anthony

"Partnering Together to Nurture the Land"

PO Box 151 ♦ 501 W. Main ♦ Anthony, KS 67003
(620) 842-5137 ♦ (800) 862-4759 ♦ Fax: (620) 842-5441
www.prairielandpartners.com



Prairieview Wheat Farms

Est. 1900

Cheri Michael, Proprietor

94536 Grady Road

Medford, OK 73759



November 12, 2018

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

Dear Honorable Chao,

Please accept this letter in support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application that is being submitted through a partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and the Grant County Highway Road Districts.

My letter of support is somewhat different because I will speak from my heart. As a Christian I know that God is first, family is second and work and country third. This is not unique in Grant County and this is why the folks of Grant County are productive, positive, effective, constructive, helpful, encouraging, and beneficial to the local, state and federal economy. You reap what you sow.

I am a 4th generation farmer in Grant County, Oklahoma and proud of my ancestors who legally emigrated from Germany to the United States in the late 1800's and became citizens. Following the Oklahoma Land Run of 1893, my great-grandfather rode a train from Fort Madison, Iowa to Jefferson, Oklahoma in 1900 and purchased the quarter section of land that I now own, farm and have make my family home on. Not only has this land been pasted down from generation to generation but Christian values and ethics have been pasted down from my ancestors for centuries.

I am a female farmer and to help support my family I also am a special education public school teacher. It is amazing what a student can learn from a teacher but even more amazing what a teacher can learn from a student. When I ask, "What is agriculture", I've hear MANY answers. I will share some of the responses and comments here that I have encompassed with my students in my conversations.

- **Agriculture is everything involved with growing plants and animals to be used for something else.** This is not a definition but it is practical and accurate. Agriculture includes science, technology and engineering. It is the genetics work used to improve the seeds and animals farmer raise and purchase. Agriculture includes business. It is the financial and legal aspects of acquiring land and other assets needed to farm. It is the marketing, sales and distribution of the plants and animals produced.
- **Nearly everything we eat, wear and use came from a plant or an animal raised on a farm.** Aside from metal, stone and plastics made from petroleum, nearly everything we use includes something from a plant or animal raised on a farm.

- **Farming is a job, a way of life.** Unlike our prior ancestors, today farmers sell most or all of what they produce to earn a living. This enable them to pay their family's bills, purchase food at the grocery store and buy clothes at the mall, just like the rest of us.
- **Farms today specialized, not like most story books.** When my grandparents were my age, farms looked like those in children's books, E-I-E-I-O. They raised a little of everything on their farm. They made a good living off 160 acres of crops, a few cows, laying hens, some pigs. Add in my grandmas' large garden, and the farm produced nearly everything their family of 12 ate as well. Over the years, their farm changed. As they invested in tractors and other equipment, they focused their efforts to make the most of those investments. The same is true today.
- **Farming is high-tech.** Farmers use iPads, laptops, drones, robots and more. Technology enables farmers to be efficient and provide precise care to their animals.
- **Farmers care about the land and water.** "This land is your land; this land is my land..." Well, as a generational land owner I own it, but it's not mine. I am borrowing it from my son. You see, I want to pass it on to him in as good or better condition than I received it from my mom and dad!

Secretary Chao, I want to pass on my family farm on to my son who in turn will pass it on to the next generation. The consensus of my students agrees that if you eat you are involved in agriculture and if you wear clothes you are involved in agriculture. Again echoing the sentiment you reap what you sow.

Investing in rural infrastructure creates a ripple effect that also benefits urban areas. Farmers and ranchers often have to avoid crossing rural bridges because of weight limits. These detours add time, miles and cost to trips, as producers move their grain and livestock to markets. Adding fuel costs also translates into adding to the consumption of fossil fuels, and fuel usage adds substantially to overall costs. In the end insufficient bridges adds cost to companies in urban areas and is passed on to the consumer. In other words, a dollar saved is a dollar earned – once again adding to the growth of Grant County's overall economy!

In Grant County agriculture is the largest industry, generating \$96.8 million in economic output, according to most recent U.S. Census data. The 1,920 road miles and 3,000 plus bridges and bridge-like structures in rural Grant County Oklahoma play a critical role in the movement of agricultural products, manufacturing goods and energy resources from our communities to domestic and global markets.

In my opinion, the bundling of 34 similar county owned bridges in Grant County will not only allow Grant County to prosper but it will allow us to develop and grow America to be great!

Cordially,



Cheri Michael

RAPP INSURANCE AGENCY LLC

PO BOX 66 / 1752 Main Street

WAKITA, OK 73771-0066

(580) 594-2550 or **Toll Free 800-256-0180**

E-MAIL: rappins@pdi.net (monitored until August 31, 2018)

L.D. RAPP, Agent MICHELE WOODSON, Agent JOSH BELLAMY, Owner/Agent

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing this letter in support of the CHBP Grant for Grant County, Oklahoma through the Federal Highway Administration.

Living and working in rural Oklahoma requires that we maintain and update our transportation infrastructure. Safe roads and bridges are very important to support our agricultural products to market, our mail and school routes and the oil and energy businesses.

As you can see our infrastructure in rural Grant County, Oklahoma is a must to maintain our everyday life. We hope you will consider Grant County, Oklahoma in the CHBP Grant review very strongly.

Sincerely,


Larry Rapp, Agent

Darrell & Jeanette Reese
30893 156th Street
Nardin, OK 74646

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

What a great opportunity for me to write in support of an application being submitted by Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) for a Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant for the bundling of 34 rural county-owned bridges in Grant County, Oklahoma, America! This is where I have lived my entire life and my family has reared many generations on this same farmstead.

Grant County is responsible for a substantial amount of infrastructure. There are 1,920 public road miles that run through Grant County, 92 percent of which are owned and maintained by the county. Grant County has 3,000 bridge and bridge-like structures, including 535 bridges captured by the National Bridge Inventory with 174 county-owned bridges rated as structurally deficient. This entire infrastructure falls in a county with a population of 4,500 covering over 1000 square miles. Bridges are an integral part Grant County's infrastructure but more importantly in America's infrastructure.

The bundling of 34 like-kind bridges into one single contract for bidding and construction is definitely a new innovation to Oklahoma - we embrace innovations. The proposal will include three to five new bridge engineering designs that will become a county standard that all 77 counties in Oklahoma can implement and utilize. Additionally, the new bridge design will add cost savings to include pre-fabrication in order to deliver, install and open the bridge in a quick turn-around; reducing road closure and detour time to a minimum.

This project is in line with President Donald Trump's six principles of "Building a Stronger America" to rebuild our Nation's crumbling infrastructure which includes rural bridges in America. Furthermore, this bridge grant package will stimulate rural Oklahoma, which is working hard to provide economic opportunities and advance the well-being for citizens all across America not only in Oklahoma and Grant County. Ultimately, I believe this federal, state and county partnership will help advance the goal of modernizing transportation nationwide.

Accordingly, I strongly support the application of the Oklahoma DOT in partnership with Grant County. I request that you give all due attention to the application for this exemplary project, and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Darrell Reese

REGIER FARMS

29716 CR 1070, Deer Creek, Ok 74636

November 9, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

As a farmer and rancher living in Grant County, I am in full support of the Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant application being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation in partnership with Grant County Oklahoma. We are optimistic about the prospect of the replacement of bridges to improve day to day operations in our county.

Farming and ranching has evolved over the years and many bridges are not structurally safe to carry the weight necessary to move large machinery and trucks carrying grain and livestock across the county. This causes farmers and ranchers to detour and travel many more miles to get to their destination. During harvest and planting seasons there is high demand for safe roadways and bridges to transport machinery and grain. The need to drive extra miles to get harvested crops to market because of closed roads or inadequate bridges is costly in time and money.

Grant County's local economy is largely based on agriculture comprised of grain crops, livestock, and hay crops. We also have wind farms and gas and oil in our county. All of these businesses greatly depend on adequate bridges and roads to transport products to market and equipment to site destinations. The replacement of 34 bridges in Grant County will benefit all of the businesses mentioned and provide economic growth as well as economic development in our county.

We fully support Grant County in their application for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant application. We feel that the innovation to bundle the 34 like-kind bridges into one single contract is an important feature to save money and time and make the most efficient use of the grant funds. We respectfully recommend this project to the sponsors of this grant and look forward to its success.

Respectfully,



Paul Regier
Farmer/Rancher

RIEGERFARMS

BRAD RIEGER
39795 county road 720
MANCHESTER OK 73758

To the Honorable
Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave Se
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Mrs. Chao,

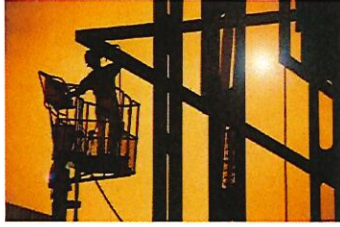
As owner of our company I would like to express my support for Grant County and there interest in applying for funds in the Competitive Highway and Bridge Program. Our County located in Northern Oklahoma has a great need for an updated infrastructure to our highways and bridges to repair years of constant use and wear.

This would add to the Economic Development of our County and improve retention and bring in new families to our area.

Transportation is a way of life in Rural America. We travel daily to provide for our families. We don't have the conveniences of the metropolitan areas, consequently this causes our residents to rely on our roads and bridges daily.

Please consider our County, Grant County for a portion of these funds.

Thanks,
Brad Rieger
Riegerfarms



[Your company slogan]

Rieger Welding L.L.C.
39795 county road 720
Manchester, Ok 73758

11-11-18

To the Honorable
Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave Se
Washington D.C. 20590

Dear Mrs. Chao,

As owner of our company I would like to express my support for Grant County and there interest in applying for funds in the Competitive Highway and Bridge Program. Our County located in Northern Oklahoma has a great need for an updated infrastructure to our highways and bridges to repair years of constant use and wear.

This would add to the Economic Development of our County and improve retention and bring in new families to our area.

Transportation is a way of life in Rural America. We travel daily to provide for our families. We don't have the conveniences of the metropolitan areas, consequently this causes our residents to rely on our roads and bridges daily. Please consider our County, Grant County for a portion of these funds.

Thanks,
Brad Rieger
Rieger Welding LLC



Salt Plains Storage, LLC
A Rockpoint Gas Storage Company
PO Box 238
Manchester, Oklahoma 73758
T 580.694.2249
rockpointgs.com

November 20, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elain L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC, 20590

SUBJECT: Grant County, Oklahoma, Resolution #2018-144
Competitive Highway Bridge Program Grant

Dear Secretary Chao:

Salt Plains Storage is a gas storage facility located in northern portion of Grant County which contains 30 wells, and a compression facility capable of processing 150 MMscfd of natural gas. We're very interested in Grant County's initiative to recondition/upgrade bridges within the area.

Salt Plains relationship with Grant County, and the infrastructure they maintain, is very important. We have a detailed emergency response plan in place which identifies Grant County as a key contact. Should an emergency situation occur, Salt Plains immediately makes contact with Grant County representatives, and works with them while efforts are made to gain control of the issue and ensure public safety. Efficient emergency response by police / fire department / contractors is essential, and we rely on well maintained Grant County infrastructure, such as bridges, to allow for access of heavy equipment.

In summary, Salt Plains Storage is in full support of this initiative, and recommends that financial aid be provided by the Department of Transportation to Grant County to help with their proposed program to recondition/upgrade bridges within their jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary Theberge".

Gary Theberge
Manager of Engineering and Operations
Salt Plains Storage

cc: Jeff Taylor, Salt Plains Storage LLC (Jeff.Taylor@rockpointgs.com)
Kelly Baltimore, Rockpoint Gas Storage (Kelly.Baltimore@rockpointgs.com)

Salt Fork HuntingCountry

3 East 1 South of Salt Fork Oklahoma

107075 Comanche Road

Lamont, OK 74643

Phone: 580-388-6692 Cell: 580-984-2023

November 10, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to convey my strong support for Grant County as they have been afforded the opportunity to apply for the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant in partnership with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

Keeping hungry mouths fed on the frontier was a nonstop cycle of hunting and fishing. Today hunting is much more than a traditional American pastime. It creates more than 700,000 jobs nationwide. New studies now show that annual spending by America's 14 million hunters' amounts to \$22.1 billion in economic output!

To diversify and add to my farm income I now lease out my land for deer hunting along with bird hunting including pheasant, quail, and dove as well as waterfowl including ducks and geese. These activities bring day and overnight visitors to Grant County and our communities reap the economic benefits when visitors buy meals and snacks, stay overnight in bed and breakfast or local hotels.

As one of many Grant County residents and landowners, I am actively involved in promoting hunting and fishing that protects our natural resources while safeguarding the reason outdoor tourists come to Grant County. However, road and bridge infrastructure must also support the increased traffic to accommodate these tourists to continue to grow Grant County's economy.

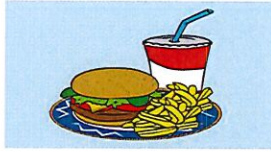
We must continue to make America great! And with that comes the fact that Grant County needs a strong partnership with the federal and state transportation departments to build 34 county owned structurally deficient bridges.

Please give this CHBP grant application your full attention.

Sincerely,



Mike Bobbitt



SMRCKA'S DAIRY SNACK
503 N 1st
MEDFORD, OKLAHOMA 73759
(580)395-2822

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am the owner of Smrcka's Dairy Snack located in Medford, Oklahoma. My family has served Grant County, Oklahoma since 1958. I chose to return to Grant County and carry on the family legacy of running "The Snack" after my retirement as an educator in San Antonio, Texas. As a 3rd generation Grant County farmer/rancher and business owner my roots run deep and I care about maintaining our county for generations to come. I would like to express my support for Grant County in conjunction with Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), to be a recipient of funds from the Federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program grants (CHBP).

Over the years I have traveled many roads in Grant County transporting livestock and working farm ground. It is apparent there is a need for safer bridges in many parts of Grant County. Grant County's population is under 5,000 citizens but still has much to offer. It is important for our citizens to sustain our livelihood and help others experience the rural lifestyle. Many people travel our rural roadways for various reason. (1) School children are traveling county roads and bridges five days a week. (2) Postal carriers and private carriers are traveling rural roadways on a daily basis. (3) Many come to Grant County from all over the United States to experience hunting wildlife and to appreciate the natural resources we have to offer. (4) Various crops are harvested in Grant County which help feed many people throughout the world and crops and hay are also grown for livestock feed. (5) The Oil & Gas industry is present in our area which requires travel throughout the county to maintain many well sites. (4) Grant County has several wind farms which lie throughout the county and employees must travel the rural roadways to reach the units for repair and maintenance. These are only a few of the positive things Grant County has too offer. However, I hope you will understand that rural community is very important to not just the people who live here but many people through the world.

The Snack has had the opportunity to provide meals to many citizens as well as hunters, harvest crews, blue collar workers, and people passing through. My hope is that future generations will have the opportunity to build a memory in Grant County as past generations have done. Keeping our infrastructure safe and keeping as many county roads open as possible, will help insure this can happen.

However, lack of funding limits the replacement or repair of 174 bridges within our County that have been identified as structurally deficient. This is more than the ODOT has within their entire infrastructure which is a reported 168 bridges as structurally deficient. In my opinion, these statistics show the need for immediate assistance with funding for Grant County.

I appreciate your sincere consideration to the grant application submitted by Grant County, Oklahoma for the Federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program grants (CHBP).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alice Smrcka". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Alice Smrcka
Business Owner/Landowner/
Grant County Citizen

**SOUTHERN KANSAS
COTTON GROWERS COOPERATIVE**

Anthony Office
P.O. Box 565
Anthony, KS 67003
(620) 842-3129



Winfield Office
P.O. Box 321
Winfield, KS 67156
(620) 221-1370

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Southern Kansas Cotton Growers (SKCG) is a cotton gin located in the southernmost part of Kansas at the Oklahoma State line. We are next to Grant County. SKCG as well as our customers haul cotton in module trucks and on flat beds through Grant County to get to and from the cotton gin.

We would appreciate your support for the State of Oklahoma's application to secure funding to replace 34 bridges on rural roads in Grant County out of the 174 structurally deficient bridges. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation is seeking financial assistance to help in providing a safe and efficient road and highway system.

Improved bridges will be a positive impact to the county and its economy. We greatly feel that this project is worthy to help Grant, County, Oklahoma, and help it to grow and provide new opportunities to this rural area of Oklahoma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary Feist". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gary Feist
General Manager
Southern Kansas Cotton Growers
32 SW 20 Rd
Anthony, KS 67003

STATE EXCHANGE BANK

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

Greetings from northcentral Oklahoma! It is an honor to write to you on behalf of The State Exchange Bank. Our bank is family-owned, and our one and only physical location is in Lamont, OK. Lamont is situated in Grant County. We are 85 miles south of Wichita, Kansas and 85 miles north of Oklahoma City. Lamont and surrounding country is a proud town of 420 residents.

It has come to our attention that Grant County leaders are applying for the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. The Grant County Resolution is identified as #2018-144.

Please add The State Exchange Bank to your list of supporters who believe the subject grant will be used advantageously for the people of Grant County and, indeed, the citizens of the United States. Grant County has many small bridges in the county, and the need for new construction is critical. As you can imagine, a county with a population of about 4,600 has hundreds of miles of dirt roads. Gravel roads are a luxury! Yet, the people of Grant County and the products they sell are the backbone of our nation's economy. We raise all of the staple crops, and we have a huge beef production presence. Oil and gas production is a mainstay, and in the last decade, wind energy has become a part of our economic drivers. ALL of these industries depend on good roads and bridges. Without them, our economy would collapse.

As a side note, I want to voice our support of our local government leadership. They follow the example of the current U.S. administration when it comes to trying to be good stewards of the funds they are given. They can stretch a dollar farther than most. If you were to ever visit Grant County, I have no doubt that you would find that taxpayer money has been used wisely.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chad F. Muegge
Vice Chairman

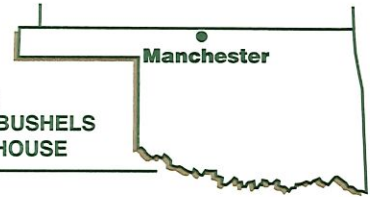
P.O. BOX 7 - (580) 388-4345 - FAX (580) 388-4376 - LAMONT, OKLAHOMA 74643

SINCE 1901

MEMBER FDIC



100% COOPERATIVE
ELEVATOR CAPACITY 750,000 BUSHELS
FEDERAL LICENSED WAREHOUSE



1132 5th Street • MANCHESTER, OKLAHOMA 73758

FOR SERVICE DIAL 580-694-2216

November 12, 2018

The Honorable
Secretary Elaine L. Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

I would appreciate your support for funding Grant County, Oklahoma, in their request of the competitive Highway Bridge Program.

State Line Grain Company was established in Grant County, Oklahoma in 1919. We will be celebrating our 100th Anniversary next year. The importance of good roads and bridges to not only this company, but all of Grant County is of vital importance. Everyone will benefit from safe bridges: school buses, mail carriers, emergence vehicles, employees, farmers and ranchers. Our patrons and customers should be able to deliver their products to market on safe roads and bridges. All these are the life blood of our local communities.

Grant County is number one in structurally deficient bridges in the state of Oklahoma. That is not a title that anyone would like to have. The Competitive Highway Bridge program would allow Grant County to make many necessary improvements.

As C.E.O. of State Line Grain Company I appreciate your time and consideration of this extremely important issue.

Sincerely,

Kirk L. Burgess, C.E.O.

Taufest Farms

21144 CR. 1090

Lamont Ok 74643

580-761-48855

jst450@yahoo.com

November 12, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao

Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I would like to offer my letter of support for the Competitive Highway Bridge program (CHBP) grant application also known as the Rural Bridge Grant. This grant application has been submitted for consideration by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in partnership with Grant County Oklahoma.

I am a local farmer and rancher who resides in Grant County and currently operates 1800 acres of farm land. I know that agriculture is an economy that is growing fast. The equipment is much larger than it was 50 years ago. Currently local farmers are producing more bushels per acre. The need to travel across our county roads and bridges in this larger equipment is crucial. Many of these roads and bridges are needing to be rebuilt and/ or repaired to be able handle that capacity.

It is important to build for our future. Our bridges 20 years ago were 18-20 feet wide and today they are building 26ft. bridges. New combines are 19ft. wide, from tire to tire and have 36-40 ft. headers. We are seeing farm equipment and trucks get larger and heavier. Semis and trucks that deliver crops to the elevators are the same trucks that travel down state highways.

In Grant County agriculture is the largest industry, generating 96.8 million in economic output. With over 1900 road miles and over 3,000 bridges and bridge structures in rural Grant County it is critical to be able to get our agriculture products from local farms to domestic markets.

I strongly encourage you to approve the CHBP grant because it would definitely help grow our economy!

Sincerely,





16105 West 113th Street, Suite 105
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

P: 913.888.9463

tradewindenergy.com

November 12th, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing to support the application to the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant being submitted by the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (DOT) and Grant County.

As the Vice President and Head of Wind Development for Tradewind Energy, I wanted to personally thank Grant County and its Board of County Commissioners for the work they have put into making Grant County attractive to companies like mine. Since 2008, Tradewind Energy has enjoyed a great relationship with the citizens and representatives of Grant County as we developed the Thunder Ranch, Chisholm View, and Chisholm View II wind projects. These projects represent over \$1 billion in capital invested in the area.

One of the most significant challenges we faced when developing these projects in Grant County was the dire need for improvements to the county's roads and bridges. Significant work was required in order to simply access the properties where the wind generating facilities were to be installed.

Grant County needs grants such as this in order to retain and attract economic development. We fully support Grant County's application for the grant and respectfully request you to consider the same.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Arb", written in a cursive style.

Joe Arb
Vice President and Head of Wind Development

**The Spotlight, LLC
1265 Lincoln Street
Lamont, OK 74643**

November 8, 2018

The Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I hope this letter finds you well. It is an honor to write to you on behalf of The Spotlight convenience store. Our store is family-owned, and our one and only physical location is in Lamont, OK. Lamont is situated in Grant County. We are 85 miles south of Wichita, Kansas and 85 miles north of Oklahoma City. Lamont and surrounding country is a proud community of 420 residents.

It has come to my attention that Grant County leaders are applying for the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant. The Grant County Resolution is identified as #2018-144.

The Spotlight strongly supports the issuance of any grant funds to Grant County. Our customers travel the country roads of Grant County every day. It is essential that they be in good repair. From the oil and gas industry to the beef and ag. industries to renewable wind energy, our people and our industries are the backbone of our nation's economy. We are proud of our heritage, and we would appreciate any assistance we might receive from the federal government.

As a side note, I want to voice our support of our local government leadership. They follow the example of the current U.S. administration when it comes to trying to be good stewards of the funds they are given. They can stretch a dollar farther than most. If you were to ever visit Grant County, I have no doubt that you would find that taxpayer money has been used wisely.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Chad F. Muegge
Owner



UNION VALLEY PETROLEUM CORPORATION

5302 N. US Hwy 81 • Enid, OK 73701
580-237-3959

November 11, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

Be assured that I am in full support of the Complete Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application that is being submitted in partnership with Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

My dad worked in the "oil patch" and I followed him to learned first-hand about the oil and gas industry right here in Grant County Oklahoma. Later on I was afforded the opportunity to not only work in this industry but to become an entrepreneur and to grow business that supports the economy for our county, state and nation.

In Oklahoma, the natural gas and oil industry supports nearly 379,100 jobs, provides more than \$34.6 billion in wages and contributes more than \$51.7 billion in the state's economy. Natural gas and oil activity support a wide-array of jobs. Oklahoma is ranked 3rd in the Nation by total employment impact. They include everything from petroleum engineers, environmental experts and right hands to truck drivers, caterers and contractors that benefit from the industry's economic activity.

- **More than \$34.6 billion in wages.** Good jobs mean community-supporting wages that are spent on homes, at local restaurants, car dealerships and boutiques among the whole spectrum of businesses that make up a state's economy.
- **More than \$51.7 Billion in economic impact.** Industry activity boosts manufacturing, logistics, banking and construction amount dozens of other economic sectors.

However, bridge and road infrastructure in a driving factor to continue the economic development and grow for this oil and gas industry. Grant County has over 3,000 bridge and bridge-like structures with 174 being structurally deficient; the average age of a bridge in Grant County is 60 years. These bridges were not built for heavy truck traffic that is used today in the oil and gas industry. Therefore, the oilfield trucks and equipment must take long detours to find safe bridge routes that will support the equipment, which adds to the cost to deliver the product and cuts into revenues.

The new innovation to bundle 34 similar structurally deficient bridges into one contract will deliver projects on time and within budget, distribute funding effectively, and manage resources for total program delivery.

Please give this CHBP grant application a favorable review.

Sincerely,

Union Valley Petroleum Corporation



Paul Youngblood
President

November 12, 2018

The Honorable

Secretary Elaine L. Chao

US Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE

Washington, DC 20590

United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

Grant County is located in northern Oklahoma, and we would appreciate your support for the state of Oklahoma's application for funding to replace thirty-four (34) bridges on rural roads in our county. Grant County is seeking financial assistance to help them provide safe and efficient roads. I am a Farmer/Rancher and I travel these roads on a daily basis, and the roads and bridges are in dire need of replacement for the safety of ourselves and our equipment! These roads are also used by the postal service, oil companies, and our school buses. We have some of the worst bridges in the nation, and I feel this funding would be very beneficial to our county.

I am referencing the Competitive Highway Bridge Program (CHEP) Grant.

Thank you very much,


Dennis Vardy

11 Nov 18

THE HONORABLE SECRETARY ELAINE L. CHAO
US DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
1200 NEW JERSEY AVE, SE.
WASH DC 20590

DEAR SECRETARY CHAO:

I'm an old farmer, 40 years here in Grant Co,
OKLAHOMA, AFTER RETURNING FROM OVERSEAS MILITARY
SERVICE. I AM SO HAPPY TO HEAR OF OUR POSSIBLE
APPROVAL OF FEDERAL HELP WITH OUR INFRASTRUCTURE
UPGRADES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OUR OKLA.
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION.

IN MY 40 YEARS HERE, OUR FARMING MACHINERY
HAS INCREASED IN SIZE AND WEIGHT, FROM 15,000
POUND COMBINES TO NOW 76,000 POUND COTTON
STRIPPERS, YET WE'RE RELYING ON 1950's
BRIDGES, TOO OFTEN. I THANK HEAVEN THAT WE
HAVEN'T HAD A SCHOOL BUS CRASH THROUGH A
BRIDGE, YET. HERE, IN THE HEART OF US's
BREAD BASKET, USA's CONSUMERS NEED A
RELIABLE FARM-TO-MARKET ACCESS.
YOUR CONSIDERATION WILL BE APPRECIATED.

VERY RESPECTFULLY

DANIEL WILSON, 580.541.2326
OLD FARMER + RETIRED NAVAL FLIGHT OFFICER
BX 267
WAKITA, OK 73771
dwilson1848@gmail.com

YL, LTD
10422 Pinto Lane
Enid, OK 73701

November 12, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Chao,

This letter is in complete support of the Complete Highway Bridge Program (CHBP) grant application that is being submitted in partnership with Grant County and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation.

The application exhibits a new innovation of bridge bundling. The idea to bundle projects is to address large number of projects with similar needs using standard and cost effective replacement strategies. The resulting economies of scale increase efficiency and create the potential for cost and time savings. Grant County fits this innovation to perfection, bundling 34 structurally deficient bridges of similar design into one contract for bidding. Additionally, 3 to 5 new bridge designs will be engineered as a county standard that will allow other counties to implement these designs.

The 1,920 road miles and the 3,000 plus bridge and bridge-like structures in rural Grant County play a critical role in the movement of agricultural products, manufacturing goods and energy resources from our communities to domestic and global markets.

As a farmer in Grant County I know the great importance of bridge and road infrastructure. I also know the impact that deficient and closed bridges cause, losing valuable time and adding to the cost of fuel and maintenance of equipment to the farmer. It all adds to the bottom dollar of the farmer as well as to the cost that the consumer pays for their food, fiber and clothes.

Grant County's population is around 4,500 but our agriculture industry generates \$96.8 million in agriculture economic output! Grant County feeds the world!

This CHBP grant application will go a long way toward achieving economic success. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

YL, LTD



Paul Youngblood
President