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Office of the Chief

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief

Bryan Warner
Deputy Principal Chief

April 6, 2022

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

Re: In Support of Oklahoma Department of Transportation's Application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Osiyo. On behalf of Cherokee Nation, I want to express our support for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's (ODOT) application for a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant. ODOT is applying for this grant to construct monopile moorings at three different locations (Port of Muskogee, Tulsa Port of Catoosa, Oakley's Port 33) on the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS). The MKARNS Mooring Modernization Project (the Project) will provide new mooring structures in the waterway that will replace obsolete anchors, which will enable safe harbor for mariners, increase reliability of structures in the event of a flood, and support efficient freight movement by waterway. Additionally, this Project will expand much needed capacity for vessels within the waterway and prepare ports for forecasted increases in freight demand through the MKARNS. These three ports are all within or adjacent to Cherokee Nation's reservation boundaries and we maintain strong working relationships with the ports and ODOT.

The three ports that will be supported by this grant employ nearly 9,000 workers. total 3.600 acres of industrial park and process nearly 5.5 million tons of cargo annually. New mooring infrastructure will be an investment in long-term strength and security for Oklahoma and Cherokee Nation to continue to be a major player in the U.S and global markets. The MKARNS waterway links Oklahoma to a 12-state service area with various domestic ports of the U.S. inland waterways system and foreign ports by way of New Orleans and the Gulf of Intracoastal waterway.

ODOT is committed to leveraging all local resources for this project. The Cherokee Nation strongly supports this effort to make needed infrastructure improvements and bring dollars and jobs to eastern Oklahoma.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact our Sr. Manager of Government Relations, Adam McCreary, at adam.mccreary@cn-bus.com or (918) 697-1163.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Hoskin Jr." in a cursive style.

Chuck Hoskin Jr.
Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation