



July 20, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
Washington DC 20590

Dear Transportation Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the 30 board members of the Economic Development Council of St. Charles County, please accept this letter as a show of support for the Bangert Island Riverfront Development project and BUILD Funding. Long a part of the vision for the City of St. Charles, the transportation investment in this project will transform the riverfront of Saint Charles into a center for economic prosperity, create multimodal transportation infrastructure, restore aquatic habitat and establish a water quality basin along the Missouri River.

I fully support the City of Saint Charles in their efforts to complete this project. The Bangert Island Riverfront Transformation Project will enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors by granting them a destination like no other in this region of the United States. It will provide visitors and metropolitan area residents with a tangible enhance to the quality of life and, I believe, will make St. Charles and surrounding environs more attractive to knowledge workers which are sorely needed by scores of local companies.

The Bangert Island Riverfront Transformation has the support of our entire legislative delegation. The Missouri House and Senate, the Governor, U.S. Senators and U.S. Congressman support this effort. The project is also supported by local businesses and community leaders. To this point, the EDC of St. Charles County represents both the public and the private sector including representatives from city governments, major employers, higher educational institutions, health systems and small business.

The Bangert Island Riverfront Transformation Project extends beyond the boundaries of Saint Charles. This project will provide our region with \$1.5 billion in new economic activity while attracting 4,000 new jobs. The project achieves these results while improving the environment by reducing the pollutant load entering the Missouri River. The project will also create habitat for endangered species.

I ask that you consider this project for BUILD funding. Federal funding and cooperation will bring this project to fruition in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory Prestemon".

Gregory Prestemon
President

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