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March 31, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We strongly support the South Dakota Department of Transportation's application for the reconstruction and paving of US Highway 12 from Morristown east to Watauga for 9 miles. The project advances the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant's goal of funding projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

US 12 provides vital access to the Standing Rock Reservation and Corson County, which is a designated area of persistent poverty. This illustrates the importance of the grant and the importance of the Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative.

The project promotes equity by improving transportation access to a disadvantaged area. It improves mobility, connectivity, and economic competitiveness of the Standing Rock Reservation and the surrounding region and advances economic vitality, reduces climate change impacts, reduces barriers to opportunity, leverages Federal funding, attracts non-Federal investment, and holds grant recipients accountable for their performance.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in funding this grant. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SDDOT Secretary Joel Jun

Sincerely,

Janet Alkiré, Chairwoman  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe