



OHIO GRATINGS, INC.

October 3, 2017

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

As Chairman of Ohio Gratings, Inc., I wanted to write and request your support of a TIGER grant application submitted by Stark, Carroll and Columbiana counties in northeast Ohio for the completion of the improvement of U.S. Route 30 to the eastern edge of Ohio. I believe that the completion of Route 30 eastward towards Pittsburgh will benefit Ohio Gratings, Inc. and many other local companies in these counties.

U.S. Route 30 is a four-lane commercial highway from Chicago to Canton, Ohio, and a two-lane, winding and hilly country road for the 32 miles that takes it to the eastern edge of the state and the fringe of the Pittsburgh market. This condition prohibits economic growth and business expansion in this region. It denies a four-lane thoroughfare through the northern counties of the Utica Shale energy development in Ohio. It inhibits the shipment of manufactured goods from Canton, and points west, to the Ohio River port at Wellsville, Ohio. It creates a tourism disadvantage for the \$700 million Johnson Controls Hall of Fame Village under development around the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton. With the exception of Cleveland, which sits on the shore of Lake Erie, Canton is the only major manufacturing city in Ohio without four-lane highway access running north, south east and west.

For all of these reasons, Ohio Gratings, Inc. urges you and your department to grant financial support to this first stage of Route 30 improvement eastward from Canton.

We recognize that the task of maintaining, improving and modernizing transportation systems in the United States is crucial and difficult work. We wish you and your colleagues the very best in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

David W. Bartley
Chairman