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October 11, 2017

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

Re: U. S. Route 30 accommodating commercial centers in Pittsburgh, PA and Canton, OH

Dear Secretary Chao:

Although no longer a resident of Columbiana County, I reside immediately across the Ohio River in West Virginia. I have resided along U. S. Route 30 for the past 23 years. For the past 40 years I have been a proponent of building a modern highway replacing the Route 30 highway in Columbiana County.. This would replace the original two-lane, windy and hilly existing route that was designed and built 100 years ago. Columbiana County has been designated as an Appalachian region. I proffer that with an adequate east/west highway through Columbiana County that it would no longer be necessary to exist in such a limiting situation and designation.

It is important that in spite of a lack of an adequate east/west highway, there have been very positive things take place to move the county in the right direction. About sixty years ago Ohio built a north/south four lane road connecting the Ohio River at East Liverpool with Ashtabula on Lake Erie. The Lake to River Highway (Ohio Route 11) provides us with access to the Ohio Turnpike north at Youngstown and with interstate highways east and west to the two coasts.

Pittsburgh, PA and Canton, OH (about 80 miles apart traveling east and west - its most direct route being U. S. 30) have prospered providing the nation with essential commercial, industrial and air transportation that was key to our economic development. East Liverpool on the Ohio River now offers great river port facilities..This will benefit from the renovation of the Panama Canal which opens Ohio to greater trade opportunities with the Far East. Energy in this nation is most important as we seek to achieve national self sufficiency. Columbia County and the surrounding areas have numerous gas wells needing good transportation for drilling new wells. A major Cracker plant in PA is under construction 15 miles from East Liverpool on the river. Plants down the river are served with four-lane highways. New gas pipelines crisscross the County. We desperately need an adequate U. S. Route 30 to create a new economic corridor.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this vital economic/transportation project.

Sincerely,