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April 27, 2020

Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: FY 2020 BUILD Grant Application, City of Altus, Oklahoma

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am sending this letter in support of the City of Altus Economic Loop Project. Altus is the growing hub community of Southwest Oklahoma. The Cotton Industry produces 800,000 – 1,200,000 bales of cotton and warehouses both baled cotton and cotton seed in the businesses this project will service. The safety of approximately 22,000 trucks that carry the producers' products to Altus and the traffic from Altus and Altus Air Force Base will all benefit. With the Loop the truck traffic will not be moving within the heart of the City. By moving the truck traffic to an Economic Industrial orientated Loop, it will be a win/win for all.

The cotton industry needs a safe transportation system to move our crop from the field to the processor and the end user. The ability to move the crop is even more important than ever in a world that runs on time, just in time!

The Altus Economic Loop Project is crucial to the cotton industry of Oklahoma and has the ability to retain jobs, spur economic development, increase productivity, promote effectiveness, provide a safer transportation system and improve the general welfare of Altus, Oklahoma and Altus Air Force Base, along with the cotton industry of Oklahoma.

Thanking you in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Harvey Schroeder  
Executive Director  
Oklahoma Cotton Council