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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
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July 9, 2018

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington D.C. 20590

Re: FY18 BUILD Grant Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

I write in support of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes ("Tribes") Department of Transportation BUILD grant application to fund the Fort Hall Connect: Strengthening Community through Transportation Investment.

The Tribes' project will make needed improvements to Ross Fork and Eagle roads, which serve vital economic development corridors of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation. The project will complement the Idaho Transportation Department's planned 2021 reconstruction of Exit 80 off Interstate 15 ("I-15").

This project will not only enhance and upgrade the road system in and around exit 80 for economic and community benefits, but will also improve the safe movement of traffic from exit 80 off I-15 to Highway 91 during winter hazards or when the Interstate is closed down. There have been 29 instances in the last 6 years of traffic being diverted off exit 80 onto Ross Fork road and to Highway 91.

I urge the Department of Transportation to give the Tribes' BUILD grant application due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Simpson".

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress