



*Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians*

88385 Pike Road

Bayfield, WI 54814

Phone: 715-779-3700 Fax: 715-779-3704

Email: [redcliff@redcliff-nsn.gov](mailto:redcliff@redcliff-nsn.gov)

*Red Cliff Tribal Council*

June 29, 2018

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

Re: Building All Season Economic Development (BASED) in Bayfield County, WI

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa supports the application of Bayfield County, Wisconsin for a US DOT BUILD grant in 2018. Bayfield County is a rural community in NW Wisconsin.

The Red Cliff Band places a very high priority on transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic growth and competitiveness and for the wellbeing of the members of this community. It is critical to maintain roads in order to support forest and tourism industries, as well as all economic development and to improve the quality of life for area residents and visitors.

Reconstruction of County Highway A from Iron River to Highway N and then west to Highway 27 will provide year-round transportation options for forestry and construction work in a crucial part of Bayfield County. Bayfield County is the second largest county in Wisconsin covering 1500 square miles. Highway 63, located on the eastern side of the county is currently the only All-Season highway going south of US 2 in the County. Presently all county roads are closed to heavy traffic for approximately 75 days a year as frost dissipates from road subgrades and road bans are put in place.

Improvements on this existing county highway will support commerce, economic development opportunities and improve safety for county residents, visitors and travelers through improved construction standards and increased durability. Improved shoulder grading and right of way clearing will greatly improve safety and this project will address the poor condition due to existing logging, the number one economic generator in the county and other heavy truck traffic.

Red Cliff recognizes the significance Highways A and N provide to the region's economy, and the access to health and education facilities it provides including two regional hospitals, several technical colleges and universities and many K thru 12 schools.

Highways A and N provide access to over 100 inland lakes with year-round residents as well as vacation homes and local businesses who depend on safe and well-constructed roads for their quality of life and livelihood. This road improvement will create immediate savings for local business and improve revenue streams for local government benefitting from year-round access on these two county highways.

Please fund Bayfield County's BASED in Bayfield BUILD project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard A. Peterson', written in a cursive style.

Richard A. Peterson, Chairman