

TOWN OF IRON RIVER

Bayfield County
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July 12th, 2019

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 Town of Iron River supports the application of Bayfield County, Wisconsin for a US DOT BUILD grant in 2019. Bayfield County is a rural community in NW Wisconsin.

Our community places a very high priority on transportation infrastructure. It is critical to maintain roads in order to support our forest and tourism industries.

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 comes out of the ground and road bans are 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.

The Town of Iron River recognizes the significance Highways A and N provide to the region's economy. 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,



Steve Probst
Chairperson
Town of Iron River