

NorthLakes

COMMUNITY CLINIC

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March 22, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Bayfield County Wisconsin application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

NorthLakes Community Clinic is pleased to submit this letter of support for Bayfield County Wisconsin's application for a RAISE grant to help fund critical infrastructure needs. As the local Federally Qualified Health Center, transportation and infrastructure are high priorities for us. So, we share the County's concerns about the state of--and more importantly the safety of--our roadways. The County's project will enhance safety by creating alternate routes for travel in the event of additional extreme weather events, such as those that have completely wiped out sections of US Highway 2 between Iron River and Ashland, and are happening with frighteningly greater frequency.

Last year's successful RAISE project included reconstructing roads to ensure they are usable in all-seasons. Road improvements included base, surfacing, edges and shoulders, and have improved both safety and all-season access for trucking in addition to electric vehicle charging stations. These improvements have already improved geographic access for the people who seek the services of our Health Center—we have two clinic locations in Bayfield County—and strengthened the county's rural communities.

We believe that building on the success with this year's planned improvements is consistent with the RAISE program's goals and those of NorthLakes. Our mission is to respond to the health care needs of our communities with an integrated array of quality services, and to actively remove barriers to care. Transportation, as you well know, is one of the most serious barriers rural people face as they attempt to access critical health care services. The proposed transportation improvements in this application will greatly improve safety, provide alternate routes so that travel is not interrupted, and promote additional rural economic growth in Bayfield County.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Rice
CEO