



WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. BOX 8952 • MADISON, WI 53708

March 25, 2022

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are pleased to write this letter of support on behalf of the application from Bayfield County, WI, for a US DOT RAISE grant to help fund critical infrastructure needs in northern Wisconsin.

Northern Wisconsin's abundant natural resources are both beautiful and economically important, as forestry is one of the largest industries across the counties we represent. The southern segment of County Highway A and the western segment of County Highway N provide access to nearly 30% of the forest lands within Bayfield County. A RAISE grant will supply much needed assistance to complete a 22-mile road improvement project in order to provide year-round access to forest lands, improve multi-modal access for bicycles, and increase the overall safety along the road and throughout the County.

Improvements to these roads will allow the County access to an alternative route in case of severe weather. Recently, heavy rains and flooding have washed out sections of core highways and whole bridges in Bayfield County, endangering residents who do not have a secondary north/south route to access emergency services, supplies and day-to-day services. Improvements to these roads will create immediate savings for local businesses, strengthen the county's rural communities, increase safety, use, and provide all-season access for logging and trucking, encourage tourism and environmental responsibility, and increase the amount of Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in rural northern Wisconsin.

This project focuses on improving quality of life, boosting economic competitiveness, and keeping Bayfield County's roads in a state of good repair. Again, we wish to express our strong support for Bayfield County's application for a RAISE grant to help fund critical infrastructure needs in northern Wisconsin. If we can provide any additional information or answer any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Janet Bewley
State Senator
25th Senate District

Beth Meyers
State Representative
74th Assembly District