



December 23, 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 Equality (RAISE) funding

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Iron River Chamber of Commerce, we are pleased to submit this Letter of Support for Bayfield County, Wisconsin's application for the RAISE grant to help fund critical infrastructure needs.

This project will:

- Improve the County Highway A Bike Route from US Highway 2 to County Highway N.
- Improve tourist access to Bayfield County.
- Improve traveler safety between US Highway 2 and State Highway 27
- Provide the forest industry year-round access to county forest lands
- Provide Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Barnes and Iron River

County Highway A south and the western segment of County Highway N provide access to 30% of forest lands in Bayfield County. During spring, load limits are in place for approximately 60 days limiting logging, fuel, and other loads on the highway.

This proposed project includes plans for reconstructing these roads to all season status. Improvements include base improvements, surfacing, road widening, and improved shoulders, improving safety, rideability and all-season access for trucking in addition to electric vehicle charging stations. These improvements will create immediate savings for local businesses and strengthen the county's rural communities.

Two Electric Vehicle Charging Stations will open the US 2 and Highway 27 Corridors to tourists and resident EVs.

This project's improvements are consistent with the RAISE program's goals and those of our organization whose goal is to provide new/old residents, guests, and businesses with the best, safest, and newest transportation experiences possible. Rural economic growth is key to our future. The proposed transportation improvements in this application will greatly improve safety, mobility of commercial traffic, and rural economic growth in addition to having positive environmental and climate impacts by encouraging electric vehicle usage in Bayfield County.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,

Geri Dresen  
Chamber Director

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