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February 23, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg,
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) is pleased to send this letter of support for the application of Bayfield County, Wisconsin to be awarded a RAISE grant to fund critical infrastructure needs. Bayfield County is an underserved rural area in NW Wisconsin which relies heavily on tourism and sustainable forest management for its economic well-being. Bayfield County is exemplary in demonstrating how a local government balances recreation and sustainable forest management for its residents and visitors. GLTPA commends Bayfield County for taking this bold step to ensure the balance continues for the future.

Bayfield County officials place high priority on the wellbeing and safety of the citizens they represent. The RAISE Grant will help continue this trend with reconstruction of a 22-mile stretch of County Hwy A which will provide a significant improvement in traveler safety, provide year-round access to county forest lands for recreation and management, and provide support for the growing number of EV's with Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) along this scenic route.

The improvements to this main county corridor include significant upgrading of the road base with enhanced drainage for water quality improvement, re-surfacing with paved road edges, and improved shoulders to support year-round tourism commerce, economic development opportunities, and quicker response times for emergency situations.

GLTPA recognizes the significance of Highway A to the county and region's economy, and we hope you give this project serious consideration for funding. This project's improvements are consistent with the RAISE grants goals and will create immediate opportunity for local business to improve revenue and strengthen the counties rural underserved communities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Bayfield Counties RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director