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April 30, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Gateway 228 – Mars RR Bridge Extension Project
Butler County, Pennsylvania**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing on behalf of the Butler County Community Development Corporation (CDC) to express our enthusiastic support for the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project and the accompanying funding request through the United States Department of Transportation's FY 2025-2026 Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant Opportunity (MPDG) program.

As the lead economic development organization in Butler County, the CDC plays a pivotal role in fostering private industry growth, facilitating job creation and retention opportunities, and cultivating a supportive environment for economic prosperity. Our collaborative approach involves coordinating efforts among leaders from local businesses, municipal governments, county officials, and other stakeholders across various levels of government.

The Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project aligns seamlessly with our mission to proactively create an environment conducive to economic growth and development in Butler County. By addressing critical transportation challenges and enhancing infrastructure connectivity, this project will unlock new opportunities for private industry investment, job creation, and economic expansion. Moreover, the completion of this project will contribute to the overall vibrancy and sustainability of our local economy.

We recognize the importance of securing funding through the USDOT's MPDG program to advance this vital infrastructure project. Therefore, we wholeheartedly endorse the funding request for the Mars Railroad Bridge Extension Project and urge your favorable consideration. The successful completion of this project will not only benefit our local businesses and communities but will also serve as a catalyst for long-term economic growth and prosperity in Butler County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Joseph Saeler, Executive Director
Community Development Corporation of Butler County
724-283-1961
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