

RUSS FULCHER

FIRST DISTRICT, IDAHO

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

1520 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6611
FAX: (202) 225-3029
<http://fulcher.house.gov>



COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 22, 2019

Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing in support of the efforts of the City of Ponderay's *Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development* (BUILD) grant application. This grant would assist with the engineering and construction of a railroad underpass connecting the City of Ponderay and Kootenai to the city of Lake Pend Oreille.

Bonner County is home to some of Idaho's most scenic parks, trails, and recreation areas. Many local citizens do not have a safe access point to Lake Pend Oreille and are forced to trespass across active rail lines to visit the Lake. This BUILD grant supports a project to add an underpass to connect communities and allow for safe passage past the rail line. Specifically, this grant would assist with the costs for engineering and construction. This project will increase safety and mitigate risks to people by providing a safe access point to Bonner County residents who want to access the lake.

The BUILD grant's funding also will improve the rural economy in the City of Ponderay and Kootenai by providing new economic opportunities at the Lake. This underpass would provide residents with new business opportunities and possible commercial expansion on the lake shore and shoreline of Sandpoint. In addition to ensuring the safety of residents, this grant would facilitate economic growth in Ponderay, as nearby businesses would have the ability to serve both local Idahoans and tourists.

I support the City of Ponderay's BUILD grant application. I urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give this application all due consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Russ Fulcher".

Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress

MERIDIAN OFFICE:

33 E BROADWAY AVE, SUITE 251
MERIDIAN, ID 83642
(208) 888-3188
FAX: (208) 888-0894

LEWISTON OFFICE:

313 D STREET, SUITE 107
LEWISTON, ID 83501
(208) 743-1388
FAX: (208) 743-0247

COEUR D'ALENE OFFICE:

1250 IRONWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 200
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 83814
(208) 667-0127
FAX: (208) 667-0310