

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

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NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

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AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

May 12, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao, Secretary  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
Dear Secretary Chao,

I am writing in support of the City of East Moline's application for BUILD grant funding for their Greater Downtown Revitalization Project.

This project would address various issues within three blighted areas: East Moline's downtown district and two Brownfield redevelopment sites, The Quarter and The Bend. As manufacturing has steadily declined in East Moline and across the country beginning in the early 80s as manufacturers moved overseas and factories closed throughout the Rust Belt. This proposed project will seek to revitalize these forgotten and neglected areas. It will create a regional, multi-modal oriented destination for business, entertainment, and living that will drive economic and community activity, in addition to street improvements including lighting, landscaping, signage, parks, and stormwater infrastructure. Additionally, "complete streets" will be implemented through the greater downtown area, providing safe and accessible connections for vehicles, pedestrians, transit, boats, and bicyclists to the established commercial cores, nearby residential neighborhoods, Mississippi River Trail, and the river itself.

I urge you to give the City of East Moline's application the most serious consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at my Springfield office at (217) 492-4062.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator

RJD/dl