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The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
West Building – 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

September 30, 2019

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of Nord Outdoor Power Corp, I am writing to express support for the City of Bloomington's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant to complete the City's priority East-West corridor – Hamilton Road. The application requests \$5.325 million to complete the Hamilton Road corridor, safely connecting rural communities and the City's residents on the southwest side to jobs, retail and dining opportunities, and recreational assets throughout Bloomington.

One of the expectations in locating this business here was the fact that the road would be going through and drastically increase the traffic count and exposure to our business. We are confident that by increasing the number people that see our business, we will see an increase in revenue along with associated sales taxes on those revenues. Again, this is revenue that was a part of the decision to build at this location originally and has not only impacted us, but the development in our area.

We serve many customers throughout the community with products and services. There are times these customers have problems finding us because many people are not familiar with where we are located since Hamilton Road does not go all the way through and they become confused. This project will not only improve the ability of customers to find us, but also greatly enhance their safety in the immediate vicinity.

This project will mitigate congestion, enhance safety and reduce maintenance needs on the transportation system while improving quality of life and enhancing the area's economic opportunities. As a result of the project, the City will close three at-grade crossings in the City and close an unsafe intersection that is a 5% accident location (Rhodes Lane / Morrisey Drive). The project will also result in the completion of Constitution Trail, a multiuse facility, filling an existing gap in the trail and connecting residents and tourists alike to jobs, retail and dining opportunities, and recreational assets.

In the early morning hours, Veterans Parkway carries a heavy load of traffic coming in from the south and west. There have been many times that accidents occur on Veterans and force cars off at Main St to find an alternate way around. Many cars go south and pickup Hamilton Road

and head east to the point where Rhodes Lane connects with Route 150. This intersection is already extremely dangerous on a day without increased traffic, but, with the increased number of cars, people are forced to take unsafe chances just to get on 150. I have personally witnessed and almost been involved in many near crashes at this intersection. There have been some serious accidents at that location in the past.

With the flow of traffic coming to and from State Farm along with normal traffic flow from the east and west being able to remain on Hamilton Rd, this will drastically help out with traffic flow and safety on Veterans as well. In addition, should backups occur on Veterans, traffic will have a much safer route to go around the bottleneck.

Given the local commitment and the many public benefits associated with this project, I strongly urge you to award a BUILD grant to help Bloomington improve safety and grow American jobs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas S Nord". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Douglas S Nord

President, Nord Outdoor Power