

Transportation

July 2, 2018

Mr. Ben Chaney
Secretary of Interior Affairs
The Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

RE: Letter of Support for a BUILD Grant Application

Dear Mr. Chaney:

Please accept this letter as my acknowledgment of support for a BUILD grant application to be submitted by **The Muscogee (Creek) Nation (MCN)** to the United States Department of Transportation. I know the importance of the bridge rehabilitation and reconstruction projects contemplated within the MCN's grant application. Additionally, I clearly recognize how these projects will improve access to reliable, safe, and affordable transportation for all rural Oklahomans while also investing in the transportation infrastructure located throughout the MCN's service area.

In addition to my acknowledgment of support for the MCN's BUILD grant application, I would like to personally compliment you on the MCN's willingness to partner with the other transportation infrastructure stakeholders, located in those eleven (11) Oklahoma counties overlapping the MCN's service area. During my career with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I have noted the MCN's willingness to work cooperatively with these others stakeholders, including State, County, and other local government entities, in an effort to maximize project effectiveness. If successful in obtaining a BUILD grant to fund the bridge projects contemplated in its application, my staff and I stand ready to further help the MCN foster these types of stakeholder relationships.

In closing, I commend your willingness to pursue a 2018 BUILD grant. The projects contemplated within your application will no doubt improve the interconnectedness of Oklahoma while also affording rural residents safe and timely access to employment, education, training, retail stores, medical facilities, and recreation, thereby strengthening workforce development and community revitalization efforts for all Oklahomans throughout Eastern Oklahoma. Accordingly, please do not hesitate to contact me for assistance as the process moves forward.

Respectfully,

Barry D. Hughes, Esq., P.E.
Division Chief, Division of Transportation