

# NorthLakes

## COMMUNITY CLINIC

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June 17, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Letter of Support – Bayfield County Wisconsin application for Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) funding

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

NorthLakes Community Clinic is pleased to submit this letter of support for Bayfield County Wisconsin's application for a RAISE grant to help fund critical infrastructure needs. As the local Federally Qualified Health Center, transportation and infrastructure are high priorities for us. So, we share the County's concerns about the state of our roadways and the ability for our area to offer the infrastructure to support the much-needed increase in utilization of electric vehicles. The County's project will improve a 22-mile stretch of road in order to provide the local forest industry year-round access to county forest lands, increase the overall safety along the road and provide Electric Vehicle Charging Stations along the route.

This proposed project includes plans for reconstructing these roads to ensure they are usable in all-seasons. Improvements include base improvements, surfacing, paved road edges and improved shoulders which will improve safety and all-season access for trucking in addition to electric vehicle charging stations. These improvements will create immediate savings for local businesses, improve geographic access for the people who seek the services of our Health Center—we have two clinic locations in Bayfield County—and strengthen the county's rural communities.

We believe that this project's improvements are consistent with the RAISE program's goals and those of NorthLakes. Our mission is to respond to the health care needs of our communities with an integrated array of quality services, and to actively remove barriers to care. Transportation, as you well know, is one of the most serious barriers rural people face as they attempt to access critical health care services. The proposed transportation improvements in this application will greatly improve safety, mobility of commercial traffic, and rural economic growth in addition to having positive environmental and climate impacts by encouraging electric vehicle usage in Bayfield County.

Thank you for your consideration and approval of this application.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Rice, CEO