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June 29, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg,
Secretary, US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) is pleased to send this letter of support for the Bayfield County Wisconsin RAISE grant application to fund critical infrastructure needs. Bayfield County is a rural area in NW Wisconsin which relies heavily on tourism and sustainable forest management for its economic well-being. Bayfield County is exemplary in demonstrating how a local government is balancing recreation and industry, and GLTPA commends Bayfield County for taking this bold step to ensure the balance continues.

Bayfield County officials place high priority on the wellbeing and safety of the citizens they represent. The RAISE Grant will help continue this trend with reconstruction of a 22-mile stretch of County Hwy A to provide year-round access to county forest lands, increase overall safety and provide Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (EVCS) along the route.

During the annual spring thaw, county roads are closed to commercial traffic for approximately 60 days as frost comes out of the ground and temporary weight restrictions are in place. The proposed improvements to this main county corridor include upgrading the road base including drainage, re-surfacing with paved road edges, and improved shoulders greatly diminishing the impact of frost on this road. This upgrade will support year-round commerce, economic development opportunities, improved safety for county residents and visitors and provide access to EVCS for travelers.

GLTPA recognizes the significance Highway A provides to the county and region's economy. This project's improvements are consistent with the RAISE grants goals and will create immediate opportunity for local business to improve revenue and strengthen the counties rural communities.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, we thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of support for Bayfield Counties RAISE Grant application.

Sincerely,

Henry Schienebeck, GLTPA Executive Director

Matt Jensen, GLTPA President