

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

We write to express our support for an expedited completion of an environmental review for the proposed bridge to cross the Little Missouri River in Billings County, North Dakota. This bridge is vital to the region's transportation network, as it would be the only east-west bridge in nearly 70 miles.

As you may know, on October 23, 2018, a number of local first responders in North Dakota wrote the Federal Highway Administration describing the "potential life-threatening situations due to the lack of an east-west bridge in northern Billings County." Incredibly, residents, and emergency services providers are often forced to "ford" the river in vehicles, hoping they will arrive safely on the other side.

The proposed Little Missouri River bridge is needed to not only enable safe passage of emergency service providers, but also to provide essential services to the Bakken oil and gas field. The expeditious construction of basic and reliable transportation systems to assist with the production and use of our domestic energy resources is of high importance to not only North Dakota, but the rest of the country. Further, Billings County is the home of the southern unit of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and a new bridge crossing would enable visitors to the Park and other tourists visiting the region to enjoy safer access to these important natural areas.

Accordingly, we urge the expeditious completion of the environmental review for the proposed Little Missouri River project in order to advance this important project. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact our staff with any updates or questions you may have.

Sincerely,



JOHN HOEVEN
U.S. Senator



KEVIN CRAMER
U.S. Senator



KELLY ARMSTRONG
U.S. Congressman