

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
Ninth Floor, West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Duffy:

We write to express our support for the application submitted by Norman County, Minnesota, to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. Thank you for your consideration.

This application would support Red River of the North Bridge Replacements, a cooperative project between two North Dakota counties and three Minnesota counties aimed at rebuilding North Dakota Bridges 49-129-10.0, 49-131-28.0, and 09-142-10.0. Unsafe conditions led to these bridges becoming load posted or closed, resulting in the halting of freight transit of goods and services between the two states. Nearby rural communities have been negatively affected by this loss of surface transportation and have been subjected to lengthy detours, slower emergency response times, and economic hardships on both sides of the Red River.

If funded, the three-bridge-bundle request would replace essential surface transportation in a rural area. The resulting infrastructure would remove barriers and increase economic competitiveness and opportunity, ultimately improving the quality of life in two states.

Accordingly, we hope this application receives your favorable consideration, and all of North Dakota's applications receive your full and fair consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please keep us informed of the review process, and feel free to contact us with any updates or inquiries you may have.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress