



July 12, 2018

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Southeast Ohio Innovative Smart Connection

Dear Secretary Chao,

On behalf of Ohio Valley Bank and our 350 employees, I would like to voice our strongest support for the East-West "Smart" corridor here in Southeastern Ohio. Not only will the project bring much needed improvements to our rural infrastructure, but it will certainly create opportunity for innovative growth. Speaking as an Appalachian-based financial institution with over \$1 billion in assets, the fiber optic connectivity alone will greatly enhance our ability to attract and retain business throughout the Appalachian regions of Ohio, West Virginia and Kentucky.

We support and applaud the Southeast Appalachian partnerships, which include both public and private entities such as the Ohio Department of Transportation, Appalachian Regional Commission, Eastern Federal Lands, Federal Highway Administration, US Department of Agriculture, American Electric Power and Horizon which have resulted in continued infrastructure improvements for the Southeast Appalachian Region.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas E. Wiseman".

Thomas E. Wiseman
President & CEO
Ohio Valley Banc Corp.