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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SELECT REVENUE MEASURES

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT

June 29, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 25090

Re: RAISE Letter of Support for replacing Granite Falls Bridge #102 in Snohomish County, Washington

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support for the Granite Falls Bridge #102 Bridge Replacement project in Snohomish County, Washington, submitted under the USDOT RAISE Discretionary Grant program.

Granite Falls Bridge #102 is located approximately 1.5 miles northeast of downtown Granite Falls, Washington, and carries traffic over the South Fork Stillaguamish River. The bridge provides direct access to the Mount Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest via the Mountain Loop Highway which offers recreational opportunities and tourism for people across the state of Washington. Granite Falls Bridge #102 is also part of a vital freight route for transportation of natural resources including timber, sand, gravel and aggregate resources. These resources are crucial for the Puget Sound region's infrastructure and construction industry.

The current 340-foot long, 20-foot-wide bridge deck is not wide enough for two large vehicles to pass comfortably. This indispensable bridge is considered fracture critical and functionally obsolete. Granite Falls Bridge #102 provides an essential route for residents living outside Granite Falls and in the rural communities of Verlot, Robe Valley, and Silverton. If the bridge were to fail or close, the detour route is 94 miles, and part of that route is built to minimal forest service standards and is closed during the winter months. A bridge closure would prevent or delay imperative emergency services.

Although this project was ultimately not selected by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee to include in the INVEST in America Act, I believe this project is critical to Washington's 1st Congressional District which is why I was pleased to submit it for consideration as a Member Designated Project request. I appreciate your full and fair consideration, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, of this grant application.

Sincerely,



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress
Washington 1st District