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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 5th, 2024

The Honorable Secretary Pete Buttigieg
Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to express my support for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) as they seek funding for the P2-Rock Island Connection through the Federal-State Partnership (FSP) Grant Program. The P2-Rock Island Connection is a component of IDOT's broader 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, which aims to eliminate the most congested rail chokepoint in the Chicago Terminal.

Specifically, the Rock Island Connection will eliminate conflict between trains operating on the Western Avenue Corridor (CSX). This will allow for SouthWest Service trains access to LaSalle Street Station instead of Union Station, which will increase capacity for the SouthWest Service while also improving capacity at Union Station for increased Amtrak service and a proposed high-speed rail, producing numerous benefits for travel across the State of Illinois.

Once again, I want to express my strong support for the P2-Rock Island Connection Project. I believe that this project will improve the ability for residents of Illinois and the greater Midwest Region to travel safely and efficiently through the strengthening of the passenger rail network. I urge you to give their application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki Budzinski".

Member of Congress