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December 13, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write on behalf of the Allegan County Road Commission (ACRC) and West Michigan Regional Planning Commission (WMRPC) partnership's application to the Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2024 RAISE grant program. With a successful application, I am confident their Protecting Lake Michigan's Shoreline Communities: Reconnecting Lakeshore Drive Project would further our mission to make Michigan's Fourth Congressional District a better place to work, live, and raise a family.

In the proposal, the agencies plan to build a new inland road in Saugatuck Township, where severe continuous coastal erosion has impacted Lakeshore Drive since 1988. The road's north-south access is no longer accessible, posing a hazard to residents, emergency services, and visitors. The application requests \$9 million in grant funding, with a 20% state/local match to construct a new road to connect 126th Avenue and 130th Avenue (Wiley Road) within Saugatuck Township. Upon completion, coastal residents to the north and south will be able to access Lakeshore Drive using safe streets, along with a separate non-motorized path parallel to the road. As the U.S. Representative for this area, I am very familiar with the importance of this project and am confident it would greatly benefit this resilient lakeshore community.

Please give the ACRC/WMRPC application your fair and full consideration. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Do not hesitate to reach out to Remy Fortin (remy.fortin@mail.house.gov) in my office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress