



**BLAKESLEE · ARPAIA · CHAPMAN INCORPORATED**

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October 20, 2017

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Charter Oak Bridge INFRA Grant Application

Dear Elaine L. Chao,

I am the owner of Blakeslee Arpaia Chapman, Inc., the nation's oldest construction company. We have been building the Northeast's infrastructure for 172 years. I am writing to ask your support for the Connecticut Department of Transportation's efforts to secure a INFRA grant for the Charter Oak Bridge Project.

This project would eliminate a serious traffic bottle neck in Hartford. The congestion is significant; it is one of the top 100 truck bottle necks in the United States. Reliving this choke point is necessary for Connecticut's economic health. Robust commerce depends on efficient transportation to move goods, services workers and customers to and from work and goods to markets. When transportation fails, commerce fades. This project would replace an antiquated system incapable of handling today's demands with a modern design that will provide efficient transportation far into the future.

Connecticut is a smaller state both in terms of population and physical size, yet for its size, has a considerable amount of highways and bridges. Because Connecticut is a crucial link between cities like Boston and New York, we have a large percentage of through traffic, especially trucks. Thus we cannot by ourselves finance the cost of maintaining these systems. Programs like the INFRA grant are necessary for maintaining these important arteries.

The INFRA grant for the Charter Oak Project would not only improve the traffic, it would improve the economy of Hartford and the rest of Connecticut. It is a project that would make a lasting impact on our state.

Thank you for consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of David R. Chapman, written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above the printed name "David R. Chapman, P.E.".

David R. Chapman, P.E.

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