

Theodore Roosevelt

MEDORA FOUNDATION

A 501 (c) (3) public non-profit organization

Secretary Elaine Chao
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation board of directors, I am writing to express our support for the Billings County Little Missouri River Crossing Safety and Mobility Project. Thank you for your consideration.

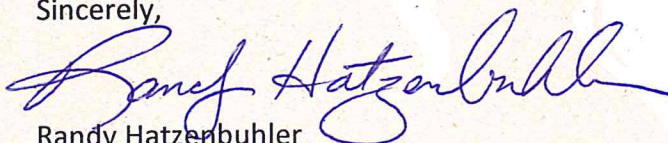
Medora is North Dakota's number one travel destination and is the county seat for Billings County. The community hosts hundreds of thousands of visitors each summer. There are fewer than 120 year round residents, many of whom work with me at the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. Some are also ranchers in addition to their full-time job. Thankfully, many are also volunteer firefighters and emergency first-responders.

The Little Missouri River flows northward through the western portion of Billings County. There are only two ways to cross the river and there is approximately 70 miles between those two available crossings. For ranchers, agricultural producers, tourists and other commerce this distance is more than an inconvenience. For law enforcement and emergency personnel, the added travel time can mean loss of property and can be a matter of life and death.

The proposed project would construct a new bridge over the river between the existing crossings. It would provide a safe, reliable connection between the east and west sides of the river. It would provide greater convenience and opportunity for commerce to residents and visitors. Most importantly, it would result in more effective emergency services and better response times in this very rural region.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important matter. We hope it will receive your support.

Sincerely,



Randy Hatzenbuehler
President

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