BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
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EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

January 13, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Letter of Support for the City of Fortuna Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program 2026

Dear Secretary Duffy:

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors is pleased to express strong support for the City of Fortuna's application for the 12th Street–US 101 Interchange Modernization Project under the 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant Program.

This project directly advances the BUILD program's core priorities by investing in traditional infrastructure improvements that enhance safety, improve system reliability, and strengthen economic competitiveness in rural America. The existing interchange, built in the 1960s, no longer meets the needs of the community or the regional transportation network. It lacks safe and efficient connections for all users, including motorists, freight, pedestrians, and cyclists. These deficiencies also inhibit redevelopment of the adjacent former lumber mill site, a key economic goal for the community.

The proposed improvements—including two modern roundabouts, a separated Class I non-motorized overcrossing, sidewalks, bike lanes, and future Great Redwood Trail connections—will reduce collisions, improve traffic flow, and provide safe multimodal access for residents and businesses. These upgrades will unlock redevelopment opportunities at the adjacent Mill District, a site critical to regional economic revitalization, and support new housing and job creation in a disadvantaged rural community.

By addressing long-standing access constraints, this project will enhance freight mobility along US 101, strengthen regional supply chains, and create connectivity between neighborhoods and the City's riverfront commercial and recreational areas. These outcomes align with BUILD's emphasis on economic growth, rural investment, and efficient project delivery.

The requested funding will allow the City to complete environmental clearance, design, and construction—steps that are otherwise unattainable due to limited local resources. As a disadvantaged rural community, Fortuna depends on federal partnership to deliver these essential improvements.

Our organization fully supports this project and recognizes the transformative benefits it will bring to residents, businesses, and the broader region. We urge USDOT to fund the City of Fortuna's 2026 BUILD grant application and help advance a project that embodies the program's goals of safety, economic vitality, and rural connectivity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Wilson
Chair of the Board
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors