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Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District, Connecticut

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2348 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250  
NORWICH, CT 06360  
P (860) 886-0139  
F (860) 886-2974

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-6011  
F (860) 741-6036

July 23, 2018

Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590 United States

Dear Secretary Chao:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write in support of the Towns of Haddam and East Haddam for the requested amount of 17.3 million dollars to implement a pedestrian sidewalk on the historic swing bridge that connect the two municipalities. A feat of engineering, the East Haddam Swing Bridge is a movable truss structure comprised of three spans crossing the Connecticut River. The bridge is a critical component of vehicular transportation infrastructure in Middlesex County, including the beloved Goodspeed Opera House. However, safe pedestrian access is nonexistent.

If awarded funding, a new pedestrian passageway will become part of the CT DOT's planned 2020 rehabilitation project. In addition to the resolution of safety concerns, this investment would leverage critical private investment into the region, including numerous area businesses and tourist attractions on both sides of the River, such as the Essex Steam Train, Lady Catherine Cruise boat, Riverquest boat, Goodspeed airport, restaurants in East Haddam, lodging accommodations, Andrew's Marina, Goodspeed's Station Country Store and many others. The bridge supports over 10,000 daily travelers.

This project has long been discussed and supported by constituents, local businesses, and municipal officials. Furthermore, a full investment in the East Haddam Swing Bridge would optimize recent infrastructure improvements including the pending public water and sidewalks along Bridge Road in Haddam.

As such, it is my pleasure to fully support this proposal and urge your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress