



# State of Connecticut General Assembly

STATE CAPITOL  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

July 2, 2018

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

Re: 2018 Federal BUILD Grant

Dear Secretary Chao,

We write in strong support of the Town of Haddam and East Haddam regarding their application for the requested grant, in the amount of \$17.3 million dollars, which will include a pedestrian sidewalk on the Swing Bridge between Haddam and East Haddam. This potential project has been long discussed and supported by both towns and local businesses. The bridge has been an important vehicular connection between the towns and it would be a huge benefit to finally have a safe and accessible pedestrian connection as well. Currently, it is extremely hazardous for pedestrians to attempt to walkover and we have a large group of resident actors and actresses; at our award winning regional theater, Goodspeed Opera House--who often attempt this crossing to access grocery stores and other important services.

If awarded, the sidewalk would become part of the Department of Transportation planned 2020 rehabilitation of the historic bridge. Town leaders and many of our constituents feel that the addition of such a pedestrian walkway would provide the needed safety upgrades; while connecting tourists and residents with area attractions, moorings and marinas. This connection is key to optimizing recent infrastructure improvements such as the pending public water and sidewalks along Bridge Road in Haddam. In addition, East Haddam recently moved their town hall out of a piece of prime real estate which will be redeveloped over the next few years.

For all of these reasons, we respectfully request your support of this worthy application.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert W. Siegrist, III.

Robert W. Siegrist, III  
State House of Representatives  
36<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Melissa Ziobron.

Melissa Ziobron  
State House of Representatives  
34<sup>th</sup> District

Handwritten signature of Art Linares.

Art Linares  
State Senate  
33<sup>rd</sup> District