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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

June 8, 2018

Honorable Secretary Elaine L. Chao
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
West Building, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20590-9898

Dear Secretary Chao:

As the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration considers applications for the Sec. 5339(c) Low or No Emission Program (Low-No) Program, I would like to bring to your attention the proposal submitted by Laketran for its Battery Electric Fleet Conversion project. Laketran proposes to replace completely the agency's small fleet of outdated diesel buses in local service with electric buses. Laketran could become the first transit agency in Ohio to provide all of its fixed-route local service with zero emission technology.

I fought to double investment in the Low-No Program under the FAST Act in order to support more innovative projects like the Laketran project. I would like to call attention to the research and modeling that Laketran and their partners have conducted in developing this project. Their research will ensure that the federal investment provided by a Low-No grant will be used efficiently and allow Laketran to significantly reduce both emissions and operational costs.

Laketran's proposal can be instructive to the entire public transportation industry. Their proposal can demonstrate that a full fleet conversion to electric buses is possible, when such a conversion is planned for and managed effectively. The Laketran fixed-route fleet is small enough to enable a full conversion, but it is sizeable enough to demonstrate cumulative benefits from a full conversion.

I strongly urge that the Department of Transportation give full and fair consideration to Laketran's application, and I ask that you please keep my office informed on the status of this application.

Thank you for your efforts.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
Ranking Member