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## United States Senate

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

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April 29, 2019

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 (FTA) 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 the continuation of its battery electric fleet conversion effort. Laketran plans to deploy three additional battery electric buses, expanding its no-emission fleet beyond the three electric buses the agency will deploy in 2020.

With further support from FTA, Laketran can move closer to becoming one of the first transit agencies to have all of its fixed-route local bus service run with zero-emission technology. I applaud the research and modeling that Laketran and their partners have conducted in developing this project, and I note that the public transportation industry needs more agencies with experience in converting a substantial portion of their fleet to zero-emission technology. Finally, I note that Laketran intends to use the additional buses to support economic development in Fairport Harbor and Downtown Painesville, which are served by the agency's Route 5.

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. Laketran can use the federal investment from a FY 2019 Low-No grant to significantly reduce both emissions and operational costs, while testing strategies for large-scale integration of battery electric buses into fixed-route service.

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