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September 14, 2010

The Honorable
Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U. S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I write in support of the Wyoming Department of Transportation's TIGER II application for a proposed Habitat Connectivity Initiative. As you may know, Wyoming's rural environment presents unique transportation needs and this project will help maintain safe, efficient highways and preserve local wildlife.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation's innovative project incorporates safety and livability improvements for motorists and wildlife in two key rural locations. Construction of fencing, underpass, overpass and related improvements will facilitate wildlife access to migratory routes and reduce the occurrence of vehicle-wildlife collisions. A 2007 report by the Federal Highway Administration stated that appropriately placed wildlife crossing structures have been shown to reduce such collisions by more than 80%. Further, increasing human and animal safety and improving the natural environment will economically benefit Wyoming's travel and tourism industries.

This project represents the collaboration between the Wyoming Department of Transportation, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In addition, this project has received support from more than 50 organizations including conservation groups, national foundations, and private citizens.

The Wyoming Department of Transportation's Habitat Connectivity Initiative provides an important opportunity to support environmentally sensitive transportation safety improvements and foster economic growth. I greatly appreciate your full and fair consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress