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July 22, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street S.W.  
Room 10200  
Washington DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company provides auto insurance carrier in Wyoming, a state blessed with significant deer, antelope, elk and moose populations. Our wildlife is our pride and joy as well as an important part of our ecosystem and a significant source of recreational revenue.

It has become apparent in recent years that the number of wildlife-vehicle collisions on our highways is rising, especially in areas heavily impacted by oil, natural gas and other mineral resource industries. Wildlife migration routes throughout the state have been compromised, resulting in reduced migration, increased wildlife-vehicle collisions, and human and wildlife fatalities.

To address this situation, the Wyoming Department of Transportation is proposing the construction of a statewide wildlife crossing system of fencing, underpass, overpass and related improvements in critical wildlife movement areas such as Trappers Point along US 191, US 189 southwest of Trappers Point, and several areas along the I-80 corridor. Their proposal, the Wyoming Statewide Habitat Connectivity Initiative, is a win-win idea that could well become a model for other states. Implementation of the wildlife crossing system will reduce human and wildlife mortality, restore wildlife migration, protect our ecosystem and maintain our wildlife for the enjoyment of future generations.

We appreciate your consideration of the Wyoming Statewide Habitat Connectivity Initiative TIGER grant proposal.

Sincerely,



Roy Schmett, AIAF, CPCU, AR  
C.E.O.

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