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July 23, 2010

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

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The purpose of this letter is to serve as a strong indication of support for TIGER II funding for a proposal submitted by the Wyoming Department of Transportation to allow wildlife migration across U.S. Highway 191 near Pinedale, Wyoming. Wyoming Wildlife Federation (WWF) strongly supports this proposal.

Our organization, established in 1937 and with current standing membership of over 5,000, is Wyoming's oldest and largest statewide sportsmen and conservation organization. Our mission is to work for hunters, anglers, and other wildlife enthusiasts to protect and enhance habitat, to perpetuate quality hunting and fishing, to protect citizen's right to use public lands and waters, and to promote ethical hunting and fishing.

With rapid energy development and consequent decline in wildlife habitat in western Wyoming over the last decade, migration corridors in the Pinedale have become literally a matter of life and death for both wildlife and humans. Fortunately, Wyoming Department of Transportation has proven to be very effective in working with a host of partners to construct wildlife underpasses in critical locations. The recently completed underpasses on U.S. Highway 89 near Kemmerer have been a tremendous success for wildlife and motorists. We ask that the same life-saving structures be funded in the Trappers Point area near Pinedale.

WWF and a host of other partners including landowners, businesses and government agencies have joined together to create the Wildlife Corridor Conservation Campaign. This campaign is focused on preserving migration corridors and improving public safety. On behalf of WWF and the campaign, we urge you to look favorably on this proposal.

Sincerely,

Walt Gasson  
Executive Director