

Ozarks Clean Air ALLIANCE

29 April 2022

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

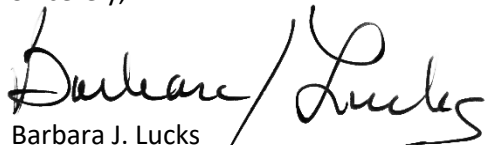
The Ozarks Clean Air Alliance, a 15-county member organization formed in 2008 and charged with improving air quality and managing local participation in the Ozone and PM Advance programs, is pleased to support the *FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks* project. This project works to ease congestion through safety improvements. It provides bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, with trail and neighborhood connectivity. These are all initiatives that work towards cleaner air in southwest Missouri.

Since OCAA's formation in 2008, significant improvements have been made in the region's air quality. The natural beauty of the Ozarks further highlights why it is imperative to maintain these improvements. The trails, rivers, and lakes in the region promote community health, quality of life, and serve as an important economic engine in attracting visitors and new businesses.

OCAA supports projects that decrease idling, provide alternative modes of transportation, and reduce tail pipe emissions that lead to the formation of Ozone and produce greenhouse gases. The *FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks* project accomplishes this through providing improvements on a critical interstate corridor.

We appreciate your consideration of the *FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation and Safety for the Ozarks* project and look forward to the continued efforts to preserve air quality in the Ozarks.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Lucks
Chair