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Western Environmental Law Center

August 19, 2009

Secretary Raymond L. LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: TIGER Discretionary Grants

Dear Secretary LaHood:

The Western Environmental Law Center is pleased to support the Wyoming Department of Transportation's application for a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for the following wildlife crossing projects in the state of Wyoming: US 191 (Trapper's Point), US 189 (Labarge to Dry Piney Creek), I-80 (Halleck Ridge), and US 189/I-80 (North to Milepost 24).

The Western Environmental Law Center is a non-profit public interest law firm that works to protect and restore western wildlands and advocates for a healthy environment on behalf of communities throughout the West. We have been working at the regional level to support states and non-governmental organizations in implementing the Western Governors' Association (WGA) Wildlife Corridors Initiative. The goal of the initiative is to identify key wildlife corridors and crucial wildlife habitats in the West and coordinate implementation of needed policy options and tools for preserving those landscapes. In addition to guidance on land use, climate change, and energy development, the initiative provided guidance to all western states on how to plan for transportation while considering the needs of wildlife movement, which is becoming increasingly important in light of climate change.

Thanks to the leadership of Governor Freudenthal, federal land management agencies, and the momentum built by the WGA Wildlife Corridors Initiative, the Path of the Pronghorn was administratively designated in the Bridger-Teton Forest plan and portions of the Trapper's Point bottleneck were also protected as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern in the Pinedale Resource Management Plan.

An important component of this federal land protection to ensure the persistence of the pronghorn migration is the construction of wildlife crossings at critical points along their movement paths. The US 191 Trapper's point project will provide safe passage for pronghorn



and other wildlife and will build on previous protection efforts and investments by the state of Wyoming, federal agencies, and NGOs.

I fully support WYDOT in their efforts to secure TIGER grant funding for this important project. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions: 970-462-6055 or digiorgio@westernlaw.org.

Thank you for developing an innovative funding program through TIGER. I hope to see some exemplary projects constructed as part of this important federal program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monique DiGiorgio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Monique DiGiorgio, Conservation Strategist

cc: Paul Orbuch, Western Governors' Association