

MUELLER

May 13, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of Paul Mueller Company and Mueller Transportation Inc., we are writing to express our dedicated support for FIX I-44: Freight, Innovation, and Safety for the Ozarks project. The Missouri Department of Transportation requests federal funding for improvements to I-44 through Springfield, Missouri, that will improve freight mobility, safety, economic vitality, and community connections.

Springfield is the third-largest city in Missouri and the center of an economic area comprising twenty-seven counties in southern Missouri and northern Arkansas. The I-44 corridor facilitates the movement of goods from a strong manufacturing sector with nationally and internationally significant stainless-steel tank manufacturing, re-manufacturing, food production, and logistics. I-44 is a critical connection for the region to the rest of the United States.

The FIX I-44 project would add strategic transport capacity and safe pedestrian connections, improve pavement conditions, and reconfigure an economically significant interchange at Kansas Expressway/Route 13. These critical improvements will ensure that local drivers, regional freight movement, and tourist traffic to Branson and the Ozarks can safely coexist while improving connectivity between the north and south sides of I-44.

This project is vital to us and other local manufacturers who contract Mueller Transportation Inc. to transport their oversized and superload-sized projects out of Springfield, MO. Local businesses are expanding their production areas for economic growth to accommodate larger processing tanks.

In the last five years, MTI has shipped 37 superloads from our Springfield, MO with a revenue value of \$54.3 million with most loads requiring 17'6" height clearance.

With this increased oversized and superload-sized frequency, we request the overhead height be as close to 20' as possible to accommodate future growth. In the last year, Mueller Transportation Inc. quoted 52 superloads that required a similar overhead clearance.

Paul Mueller Company's world headquarters is located in Springfield, MO, with operations in Missouri, Iowa, The Netherlands, Germany, and Vietnam and dealer networks in Canada and South America. Paul Mueller Company employs approximately 1,000 people, and the 2021 consolidated revenue was \$185 million.

We respectfully request that you award an MPDG grant to the FIX I-44 project this year.

Thank you for your consideration,


Joseph Meissert
Vice President


Kenneth Jeffries
Chief Financial Officer