

BLAKE JOHNSON

MAJORITY LEADER
SENATOR
21ST DISTRICT
(870) 323-1766
blake.johnson@senate.ar.gov

POST OFFICE BOX 8
CORNING, ARKANSAS 72422



THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

CHAIR:
STATE AGENCIES & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER:
REVENUE & TAXATION
JOINT ENERGY
RULES, RESOLUTIONS & MEMORIALS
JOINT BUDGET
ETHICS

February 22, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) seeking federal funding for the Corning Bypass Project in Clay County, Arkansas.

By constructing the proposed Corning Bypass, ARDOT will divert 88% of heavy truck traffic from US-67. The local community strongly desires these improvements and has expressed concerns about the negative impacts of truck traffic in downtown Corning on their safety and quality of life. Additionally, this segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help stimulate economic activity in historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

With your assistance, ARDOT will be able to substantially improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning, reduce pollution and noise within Corning, and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, the bypass will provide more efficient infrastructure to support economic development and connectivity within and between historically disadvantaged communities. It will also improve local vehicle and pedestrian access so residents and travelers can more safely and effectively get to jobs, homes, businesses, and amenities.

Respectfully, we ask you to give the application every consideration. Federal funds will allow our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state investments in this corridor.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Blake Johnson.

Blake Johnson
Senate Majority Leader
District 21

Handwritten signature of David Wallace.

David Wallace
State Senator
District 19

Handwritten signature of Dan Sullivan.

Dan Sullivan
Assistant Pro Tempore
District 20

Handwritten signature of John Payton.

John Payton
State Senator
District 22

MAYOR
Greg Ahrent

City of Corning
P.O. Box 538
Corning, AR 72422
Phone: 870-857-6746
Mayor's Cell: 501-658-1577

CLERK/TREASURER
J'Anna Couch

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg.

On behalf of The City of Corning Arkansas, I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ArDot), SEEKING FEDERAL FUNDING GOT THE Corning Bypass Project in Clay County, Arkansas.

With your assistance, ArDot will be able to sustainably improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning, reduce pollution and noise within Corning, and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, the Bypass will provide more efficient infrastructure to support economic development, provide infrastructure connectivity within and between Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and improve local access for vehicles and pedestrians alike, so area residents and travelers can more safely and effectively get to jobs, homes, businesses, and amenities.

The local community strongly desires these improvements and has expressed concerns about the negative impacts truck traffic in downtown Corning on their safety and quality of life. By constructing the proposed Corning Bypass, ArDot will divert 88% of heavy truck traffic from US-67.

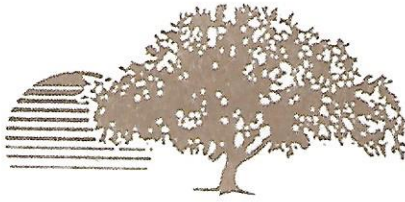
The proposed Corning Bypass Project will be of great benefit to the City of Corning, and we strongly support the construction of the proposed Corning Bypass. This segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help to stimulate economic activity to historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

The City of Corning hopes USDOT will make a grant award to the ArDOT in support of this Project. Federal funds will allow our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state investments in this corridor.

Sincerely,



Greg Ahrent
Mayor
City Of Corning



“The Home of Arkansas’ Greatest July 4th Picnic Celebration”

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The Corning Area Chamber of Commerce I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), seeking federal funding for the Corning Bypass Project in Clay County, Arkansas.

With your assistance, ARDOT will be able to substantially improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning, reduce pollution and noise within Corning, and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, the Bypass will provide more efficient infrastructure to support economic development, provide infrastructure connectivity within and between Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and improve local access for vehicles and pedestrians alike, so area residents and travelers can more safely and effectively get to jobs, homes, businesses, and amenities.

The local community strongly desires these improvements and has expressed concerns about the negative impacts of truck traffic in downtown Corning on their safety and quality of life. By constructing the proposed Corning Bypass, ARDOT will divert 88% of heavy truck traffic from US-67.

The proposed Corning Bypass project will be of great benefit to our local Chamber of Commerce. We strongly support the construction of the proposed Corning Bypass. This segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help to stimulate economic activity to historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

The Corning Chamber of Commerce hopes the USDOT will make a grant award to the ARDOT in support of this Project. Federal funds will allow our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state investments in this corridor.

Sincerely,

Sherry Taylor
Secretary/Treasurer
Corning Area Chamber of Commerce

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20003-3660

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We are writing to express our support for the application submitted by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) to the RAISE grant program for the Corning Bypass project in Clay County, Arkansas.

With your assistance, ARDOT will be able to substantially improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning; reduce pollution and noise within Corning; and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, this segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help to stimulate economic activity to historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

We hope you will share our belief that this project will provide a great benefit to Arkansans. We ask that you give this application all due consideration, and please keep us apprised of its progress.

We are grateful for the assistance your office provides to the state of Arkansas.

Sincerely,



John Boozman
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton
U.S. Senator



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress

February 27th , 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), seeking federal funding for the Corning Bypass Project in Clay County, Arkansas.

With your assistance, ARDOT will be able to substantially improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning, reduce pollution and noise within Corning, and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, the Bypass will provide more efficient infrastructure to support economic development, provide infrastructure connectivity within and between Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and improve local access for vehicles and pedestrians alike, so area residents and travelers can more safely and effectively get to jobs, homes, businesses, and amenities.

The local community strongly desires these improvements and has expressed concerns about the negative impacts of truck traffic in downtown Corning on their safety and quality of life. By constructing the proposed Corning Bypass, ARDOT will divert 88% of heavy truck traffic from US-67.

The proposed Corning Bypass project will be of great benefit to the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce, and the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the construction of the proposed Corning Bypass. This segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help to stimulate economic activity to historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

The Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce hopes the USDOT will make a grant award to the ARDOT in support of this Project. Federal funds will allow our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state investments in this corridor.

Sincerely,

Rachel King
Executive Director
the Lawrence County Chamber of Commerce

February 26, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Randolph County Arkansas Chamber of Commerce, I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), seeking federal funding for the Corning Bypass Project in Clay County, Arkansas.

With your assistance, ARDOT will be able to substantially improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning, reduce pollution and noise within Corning, and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, the Bypass will provide more efficient infrastructure to support economic development, provide infrastructure connectivity within and between Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and improve local access for vehicles and pedestrians alike, so area residents and travelers can more safely and effectively get to jobs, homes, businesses, and amenities.

The local community strongly desires these improvements and has expressed concerns about the negative impacts of truck traffic in downtown Corning on their safety and quality of life. By constructing the proposed Corning Bypass, ARDOT will divert 88% of heavy truck traffic from US-67.

The proposed Corning Bypass project will be of great benefit to our community, and the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the construction of the proposed Corning Bypass. This segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help to stimulate economic activity to historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

Our Chamber hopes the USDOT will make a grant award to the ARDOT in support of this Project. Federal funds will allow our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state investments in this corridor.

Sincerely,



Mike Thompson
Board President
Randolph County Chamber of Commerce

CITY OF WALNUT RIDGE

Council Members:

Angie Abbott
Bryan Butts
Ty Callahan
Drake Martin
Stephanie Nichols
Doayne Davis
Jon Walter
Whit Watson



Where Abbey Road Meets the Rock N' Roll Highway
300 WEST MAIN STREET
Walnut Ridge, Arkansas 72476

PH: 870-886-6638 – cityhall@cityofwalnutridge.co

Charles E. Snapp
Mayor

Sharon Henson
City Clerk/Treasurer

Adam Butler
City Attorney

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of The City of Walnut Ridge, I am writing in support of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), seeking federal funding for the Corning Bypass Project in Clay County, Arkansas.

With your assistance, ARDOT will be able to substantially improve safety, mobility, and traffic flow through Corning, reduce pollution and noise within Corning, and increase travel time reliability for commercial and other through traffic. In addition, the Bypass will provide more efficient infrastructure to support economic development, provide infrastructure connectivity within and between Historically Disadvantaged Communities, and improve local access for vehicles and pedestrians alike, so area residents and travelers can more safely and effectively get to jobs, homes, businesses, and amenities.

The local community strongly desires these improvements and has expressed concerns about the negative impacts of truck traffic in downtown Corning on their safety and quality of life. By constructing the proposed Corning Bypass, ARDOT will divert 88% of heavy truck traffic from US-67.

The proposed Corning Bypass project will be of great benefit to all of Northeast Arkansas. The City of Walnut Ridge strongly supports the construction of the proposed Corning Bypass. This segment is part of the larger I-57 corridor, which will connect Chicago to Little Rock and points beyond, including Dallas. This improved regional connectivity will help to stimulate economic activity to historically disadvantaged communities across northeast Arkansas.

The City of Walnut Ridge hopes USDOT will make a grant award to the ARDOT in support of this Project. Federal funds will allow our region to further strengthen the impact of decades of significant state investments in this corridor.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Snapp
Mayor, City of Walnut Ridge

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Charles E. Snapp'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being particularly prominent.