



# INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner

March 15, 2012

Mr. Ray LaHood, Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: TIGER IV Discretionary Grant: Minot International Airport, Minot North Dakota**

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Supporting oil development in western North Dakota and access to air travel is vital to our nation's economy. In March of this year, January production totals indicate North Dakota has overtaken California as the third-largest oil-producing state in the nation. Production totals, which typically lag two months in reporting, recently released by both states show North Dakota pumped 16.9 million barrels of oil in January, compared with California's 15.8 million barrels. North Dakota had a daily average of 546,000 barrels, besting California by more than 36,000 barrels.

North Dakota officials have estimated the State could surpass Alaska within a year as the nation's No. 2 oil producer.

Based on the facts there is no doubt oil production will continue to drive the demand for air travel in the City of Minot.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karlene Fine".

Karlene Fine  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Industrial Commission