



## **SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE OF RESEARCH AFFAIRS**

May 14, 2009

Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
331 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-4104

Dear Representative Herseth Sandlin:

The South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) fully supports the establishment of a University Transportation Center (UTC) to be located on our campus. Members of the Civil Engineering Department at SDSM&T have been anticipating the DOT Reauthorization process for the UTC program for several years. The Department of Transportation authorizing cycle is occurring in FY 2010 and SDSM&T has requested authorizing language for the establishment of a UTC at SDSM&T. During this past year a strategic Transportation Engineer hire was made in Dr. Joe Fazio. Dr. Fazio is a transportation specialist, a necessary element in the creation of a UTC. As an element of our FY 10 Congressional Interest Items, SDSM&T proudly anticipates the establishment of a Tier III UTC in the future.

Each UTC must have a thematic focus. The proposed focus of the SDSM&T UTC is "Transportation issues on Tribal lands." This will be the only UTC established nationally with this focus. The UTC will be in a position to provide support for tribal transportation issues nationwide. Dr. Fazio is embarking on a process of "program development." This involves traveling the region to gather topics of interest to the tribes which can serve as research foci for the UTC. This effort will include training and interaction with tribal transportation officers and students as well. SDSM&T is committed to a process which will insure the efforts of the UTC are driven tribal transportation needs and interests.

Thank you for your support in this important effort.

Sincerely,

Dale N. Skillman  
Interim Vice President for Research