

AMERICA WALKS

Making America a Great Place to Walk

Secretary Elaine L. Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

February 6, 2017

Dear Secretary Chao,

America Walks congratulates you on your recent confirmation as Secretary of Transportation of the United States. You have a great opportunity ahead of you to provide expertise and leadership on one of America's greatest challenges- making sure that communities across the US have safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active.

At America Walks, we see firsthand the impact active transportation and access to transit can have on an individual's ability to be healthy and successful, a community's ability to be vital and vibrant, and our country's ability to be on a path to a sustainable future. Walkable communities are communities where people are physically, mentally, and socially healthy. They are places where individuals thrive, economies strengthen, and communities grow. Leadership from the Department of Transportation can help create policies, programs and environments to make this a reality for all members of communities across the US.

You have stated that safety is a priority for you as you take on this new role and we applaud your commitment to reducing the thousands of unnecessary deaths that occur when walking and biking. We look forward to working with you to help put people first in the initiatives you lay out as Secretary of Transportation. There are many challenges facing America's transportation, we stand ready to work with you to address these challenges and insure that complete streets, sidewalks, and trails are part of America's bright future.

Sincerely,



M. Katherine Kraft, Ph.D.
Executive Director

About America Walks

America Walks is the only national organization devoted exclusively to making America a great place to walk. America Walks consists of a network of more than 700 partner and allied organizations, working to increase walking and create more safe, accessible and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active. Our programs include on-line technical assistance, community-based workshops, convenings such as the National Walking Summit, and providing a national voice for the growing walking movement. America Walks also maintains the Every Body Walk! Collaborative, a national partnership focused on increasing the visibility of walking and cultivating consumer demand for more walkable places. Learn more at www.americawalks.org.

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