



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Anthony R. Foxx, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**RE: TIGER Grant Letter of Support – SouthPort Marine Terminal Development**

Dear Secretary Foxx:

We would like to express our strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's TIGER application for funding to construct a vessel berth at its SouthPort Marine Terminal Development project. The PRPA is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Commonwealth has provided substantial capital funding for port infrastructure maintenance and development.

Construction of the initial berth is a critical component of a full-scale plan to develop 119 acres along the Delaware River into a thriving port facility. The United States has experienced rapid growth in the volume of containers being handled by US ports. Since the recession, growth has increased steadily at East Coast ports, including the Port of Philadelphia. Additionally, when completed in 2017, the Delaware River Main Channel deepening project will allow the Port of Philadelphia to handle approximately 90 percent of the world shipping fleet. Given these developments, the Port's existing capacity is not expected to meet projected growth.

Developing Southport will allow for the Port of Philadelphia to meet the current and expected demands, provide for more efficient transit of imports and exports, and better serve the region's needs. The Port has direct highway and double-stack rail connections that allow for efficient distribution local entities, and the Midwestern United States.

The PRPA anticipates that Southport will allow for Port of Philadelphia facilities to handle over 60 percent of the region's demands within 15 years. The PRPA forecasts that it will result in substantially fewer truck miles over 25 years, which will increase safety, reduce emissions, and lead to significant savings in shipping costs.

The berth construction project is estimated to cost \$98 Million. A TIGER grant of \$25 million is proposed and would be matched with an approximately \$73 Million from

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private/public sources to construct the berth. The total cost of the SouthPort project is anticipated to cost \$309 Million.

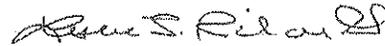
Thank you for your consideration of this application and our strong support for it.

Sincerely,



TOM WOLF  
Governor of Pennsylvania

Sincerely,



LESLIE S. RICHARDS  
Secretary of Transportation