Florida House of Representatives

Representative Bob Cortes

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June 23, 2016

Paul N. Jaenichen, Sr.
Maritime Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation - MARAD
West Building
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Marine Highway Project Designation - Letter of Support
Philadelphia/Canaveral Marine Highway Service along M-95 Corridor
Maritime Administration 46 CFR Part 393 - Docket No. MARAD-2010-0035 RIN 2133-AB70 – Final Rule

Dear Mr. Jaenichen,

I would like to express my strong support for the Philadelphia/Canaveral Marine Highway Designation application. The Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, Port Canaveral and Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC, are submitting an application to the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) for designation of a containerized tug barge service between the Port of Philadelphia and Port Canaveral.

The establishment of a marine highway between Philadelphia and Canaveral would provide a multitude of opportunities and benefits to the local port community. Significant growth in freight volumes are anticipated in the coming years. A marine highway service would reduce truck traffic along congested interstates and roadways, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, conserve energy and enhance safety.

Should the designation be awarded, I fully intend to work with the project partners to further develop transportation services and infrastructure requirements to see the Philadelphia/Canaveral service become a feasible marine highway option.

Sincerely,

Robert "Bob" Cortes
State Representative, District 30

Committees: Finance & Tax Committee, Choice & Innovation Subcommittee, Higher Education & Workforce Subcommittee, and Rulemaking Oversight & Repeal Subcommittee