Florida House of Representatives

Representative Victor M. Torres, Jr.

District 48
Democratic Deputy Minority Whip

5449 S. Semoran Blvd.
Suite 16
Orlando, FL 32822
407.730.3422

1302 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1300
407.717.5048

June 28, 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,

We would like to express our 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, we 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,

Victor M. Torres Jr.
Florida House of Representatives, District 48

Committees:
Economic Development & Tourism Subcommittee Democratic Ranking Member, Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee, Education Committee, Government Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining, Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee