



July 5, 2016

Mr. 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:

The North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), an economic development agency operating in Brevard County, Florida, would like to express its support for the Philadelphia/Canaveral Marine Highway Designation application. It is our understanding that the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority, Port Canaveral, and Columbia Coastal Transport, LLC, are submitting this application to the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) for designation of a containerized tug barge service between the Port of Philadelphia and Port Canaveral, Florida. We believe that this application merits approval.

The establishment of a marine highway between Philadelphia and Canaveral would provide a number of economic development benefits to the community around Port Canaveral. With the prospect of growth in freight volumes in the next few years, it is the belief of the NBEDZ that such a service would reduce truck traffic along our congested interstates and roadways, conserve energy, and enhance safety.

Should the designation be awarded, the NBEDZ intends to work with the project partners to further develop transportation services and infrastructure requirements to enable the Philadelphia/Canaveral service to be a viable marine highway option. Please contact me at 321-960-1458, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Post", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Troy Post, CECD, CBE
Executive Director