

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 16, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao,

I am pleased to provide this letter in support of PhilaPort's application for \$30M in discretionary grant funds from the 2019 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP).

PhilaPort is an independent agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania charged with the management, maintenance, marketing, and promotion of port facilities along the Delaware River in Pennsylvania, and with strategic planning throughout the greater port district. Port cargoes and the activities they generate are responsible for thousands of direct and indirect jobs in the Philadelphia area and throughout Pennsylvania. According to the Inrix 2018 Global Traffic Scorecard, the Northeast is home to the nation's most congested cities. This congestion costs drivers approximately 150 lost hours each year. The maritime transportation system is a viable and underutilized alternative that can play an important role in enhancing the capacity and performance of this transportation system. The Southport Berth Development and Port Expansion project aims to contribute to the reduction of this landside congestion and stimulate the marine freight industry in the greater Philadelphia region.

PhilaPort is seeking these funds in order to provide gap funding for the development of a new \$80.5M multi-use berth to accommodate roll-on/roll off (Ro/Ro) and military vessels at Southport. The proposed berth will be capable of handling container vessels and support ship to shore cranes.

Once again, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the aforementioned grant application, and I respectfully ask that you give PhilaPort's application all due consideration. In the event that this application is selected for funding, please direct a copy of your award notification to my Grants Coordinator, Alex Byrne, via email at [Alexandra\\_Byrne@toomey.senate.gov](mailto:Alexandra_Byrne@toomey.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Pat Toomey  
U.S. Senator