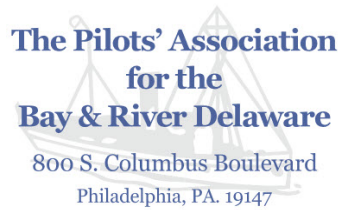


Jonathan C. Kemmerley, *President*  
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The Honorable  
Secretary Elaine L. Chao  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington D.C. 20590

September 17, 2019

Dear Secretary Chao,

This letter is to communicate our support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (Philaport) 2019 Port Infrastructure Development Program the ***Southport Wharf Development and Port Expansion*** project.

The Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware is one of the oldest state pilot organizations in the nation, founded in 1896. We believe this expansion will directly support many family sustaining jobs in Pennsylvania and the Central Atlantic Region. Successful development of this project will represent the first Deepwater berth construction in Philadelphia in nearly 50 years.

This project will have significant logistical benefits as the berths are adjacent to vehicle and other rolling stock and container operations. These benefits include placing vehicles at a first point of rest in immediate proximity to the processing center, more efficient berthing operations and reducing transfers between processing centers. Once completed this will enable for more efficient export vehicle opportunities as well as intermodal delivery via rail.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to ensure the Port of Philadelphia's continued success.

Sincerely,

Jonathan C. Kemmerley  
President  
The Pilots' Association for the Bay and River Delaware