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May 15, 2020

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

***RE: PhilaPort Surface Streets Improvements Planning Project***

Dear Secretary Chao,

We are writing to express support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) ***Surface Streets Improvements Planning*** project. PhilaPort is requesting \$1.2 million in federal grant funding to provide preliminary engineering design services and environmental clearance for improvements to the street network serving the Port of Philadelphia, which will enhance the connectivity of port facilities and reduce travel times to Interstates I-95 and I-76. The project will improve the efficiency of port operations, allowing for an expansion of capacity to support planned growth, particularly at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals.

PhilaPort has recently invested in infrastructure improvements at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals to expand capacity and meet increasing market demand. The Port anticipates the volume of auto cargo to double within the next 10 years and container volumes to double within the next fifteen (15) years. The surface transportation network serving the Port is in need of improvement to enhance access to and circulation between port facilities and to safely accommodate these planned increases in truck traffic.

Funding awarded under the U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) grant programs would support PhilaPort's efforts, in collaboration with its partners, to improve the road network enhancing access to I-95/I-76 particularly for the Southport Marine Terminal, increase the capacity of Port access driveways, increase connectivity to intermodal centers and other Port facilities, and provide sufficient queuing space at processing centers and gate entrances. The enhanced access and increased efficiency of operations will ensure the port remains a vital economic engine to local community. Sustaining working-class jobs represent revenue that will be directly distributed into the local community and economy. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this important application, while will provide unparalleled economic benefits for Pennsylvania and the Northeast region.

Sincerely,



Leo A. Holt  
President & CEO