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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: Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's Application for a U.S. Department of Transportation Grant, Surface Streets Improvement Planning Project

Dear Secretary Chao:

I am writing to express my support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) grant application. PhilaPort is requesting \$1.2 million in federal grant funding to support its ***Surface Streets Improvements Planning*** project.

The grant would allow PhilaPort to begin preliminary engineering design services and environmental clearance for improvements to the street network serving the Port of Philadelphia, enhancing the connectivity of port facilities and reducing travel times to Interstates I-95 and I-76. The project will improve the efficiency of port operations and support planned growth, particularly at the Packer Avenue and Southport Marine Terminals.

PhilaPort 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 15 years. The surface transportation network serving the Port is in need of improvements to enhance access to and circulation between port facilities and to safely accommodate these planned increases in truck traffic.

USDOT funding 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 and sustains working-class jobs.

I request that a copy of this letter be added in support of PhilaPort's grant application. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeleine Dean
Fourth Congressional District, Pennsylvania
United States House of Representatives