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May 11, 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, Southport Development 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 \$25 million in federal grant funding to support its ***Southport Wharf Development and Port Expansion*** project, constructing a multi-use berth to accommodate roll-on/roll off (Ro/Ro) and military vessels.

The project goal is to provide additional maritime capacity within the regional port system, which is vital to fostering regional and national economic growth in the years ahead. The project would support the creation of hundreds of direct jobs in the port itself, as well as several thousand additional induced and indirect jobs, which will inject millions of dollars into the local economy.

In addition to providing crucial jobs to a region struggling with persistent poverty, a new berth would provide numerous efficiency and logistical benefits—more efficient berthing operations, placing cargo in immediate proximity to the berth and processing center, and decreased potential for vehicle damage. Once completed, the berth will enable more efficient export vehicle opportunities, as well as intermodal delivery via rail.

The grant would support PhilaPort's efforts, in collaboration with its partners, to build a new berth adjacent to more than 160 acres of cargo storage. Successful development of this project would represent the first deep-water berth construction in Philadelphia in almost 50 years, leveraging the channel deepening of the Delaware River.

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,



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