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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 24, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write today in support of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program for the *Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT) Connector Bridge Project*. I urge you to give this application full and fair consideration.

I understand that in this project, PhilaPort is proposing the construction of a 580-foot, two lane connector bridge between the PAMT and the adjacent Publicker site. The two sites are currently split by the Walt Whitman Bridge right-of-way and connected by a narrow 2 lane pathway. This pathway is used as the main entrance to PAMT, as well as the connection to shuttle cargo between the two sites.

From my understanding, the pathway is currently over utilized, which creates excessive congestion, increased truck idling times, and traffic conflicts. PhilaPort informed with me that one of the primary goals of the construction of a Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Connector bridge will be to unlock the Publicker site's capacity as a viable first point of rest for inbound vessel, rail, and truck containers. The improvement in productivity will provide for a significant reduction in container double handling and increase capacities at both sites. PhilaPort tells me that the reduction in time of transit has both environmental and cost-competitiveness benefits.

More specifically, I am told that this project will enhance the connectivity of port facilities, increase road safety within the terminal by saving 100 miles of in-terminal transit per average exchange vessel call, improve freight mobility by reducing turn time by approximately 1.4 hours per call, and improve efficiency by saving nearly 38 hours of equipment run time per call. These benefits will enable PhilaPort to not only handle the demands of today, but also position the port for the expected future growth of the containerized cargo industry.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 224-6851.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator