

ASTRO HOLDINGS, INC.
3301 S. Columbus Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19148

April 28, 2023

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

RE: Philaport Grant Application – Port Infrastructure Development Program

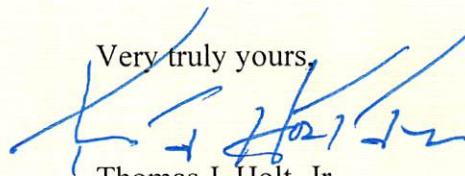
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Port of Philadelphia (Port) has realized close to 8% annual growth in container volume for the last two years. There are innumerable benefits whenever international freight can be handled by water to the port closest to the supply and consuming area. By creating capacity at the Port we can make this scenario a more often reality. The referenced grant's initiative is to build a bridge over mud flats between two sites used for import/export container handling. The creation of a connector bridge between the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal (PAMT), the Port's container terminal, and an adjacent but separate 40-acre site would create container handling capacity through efficiency not realized today. This initiative not only increases container capacity, it provides a more secure multi-modal hub while also improving safety for industry laborers and truckers at the PAMT. This proposed connector bridge would eliminate a major truck flow bottleneck at the marine terminal and provides benefits beyond. Attracting more containerships and creating container capacity with more jobs directly for Philadelphia reduces highway congestion between Philadelphia and New York, Baltimore and Washington DC. Accordingly, this letter communicates our strong support for PhilaPort's application for grant funding assistance for this cause.

PhilaPort's application is titled "Packer Avenue Marine Terminal Connector Bridge Project". If awarded, the funding will be utilized to construct a 580-foot, two lane connector bridge between the PAMT and the aforementioned 40-acre adjacent waterfront site. This 580-foot connector bridge will make operations at the two adjacent sites seamless creating capacity at both through providing safer and faster inter-site container flow. Today containers handled at this 40-acre site frequently require double handling and this connector bridge would eliminate this need providing cost savings for the supply chain and the ultimate consumer.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important project. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (215) 870-0328.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Holt, Jr.
President