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April 25, 2024

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

RE: SouthPort Berth, Phase 2: Capacity and Resilient Growth Optimization (CARGO)

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

This letter is to communicate my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) "***SouthPort Berth, Phase 2: Capacity and Resilient Growth Optimization (CARGO)***" INFRA Grant Application.

PhilaPort is requesting funding from INFRA, (the Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects program). If awarded, the funding will be utilized to expand the operational capacity at the Southport marine terminal.

PhilaPort's SouthPort marine terminal is a Ro/Ro terminal that specializes in receiving and processing new vehicles. Last year, PhilaPort recorded a record volume of over 250,000 units processed. With anticipated future growth of Ro/Ro cargo, PhilaPort intends to create ten (10) additional acres of land directly adjacent to the Phase 1 berth which is currently funded and scheduled to be completed in 2027. The (10) acre infill project will increase operational and cost efficiencies by providing the capacity to store Ro/Ro cargo directly adjacent to the berth at the first point of rest (FPOR). Land constrained, PhilaPort's (10) acre infill project is a cost-effective solution to increase acreage for port growth that will alleviate the strain on existing port facilities.

SouthPort Berth, Phase 2 calls for the construction of a second berth downriver of the currently funded phase 1 berth. PhilaPort proposes the consolidation of Ro/Ro operations which will enable all Ro/Ro vessels to discharge cargo at the Southport marine terminal and relieve berth congestion which currently exists at PhilaPort's Packer Avenue Marine Terminal. The proposed 1,000' Phase 2 multi-use berth will complete the waterside build out of the SouthPort Marine Terminal. The project location is located less than two (2) miles from both I-95 and I-76 interchanges and adjacent to two Class I railroads, served by CSX and Norfolk Southern.

As the State Representative for the area that includes the Port of Philadelphia, I know that thousands of area residents, and hundreds of my constituents, support families through their employment at the Port. While there is limited space at the facility, the Port has a reputation for offloading and onloading cargo quickly and efficiently. I also know that investing in infrastructure and

expanding capacity will attract more shipping traffic which will translate into job creation and reduce costs to consumers.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this important multi phased project.

Sincerely,

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

Pennsylvania State Representative
184th Legislative District