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Senate of Pennsylvania

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April 29, 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.

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

Sincerely,

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

Nikil Saval
State Senator
1st Senatorial District