

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I write in support of Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's INFRA Grant Program. This funding would support the "SouthPort Berth, Phase 2: Capacity and Resilient Growth Optimization (CARGO)" project, which will 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 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).

SouthPort Berth, Phase 2 calls for the construction of a second berth downriver of the currently funded phase 1 berth. This project is located less than two miles from both I-95 and I-76 interchanges and adjacent to two Class I railroads, served by CSX and Norfolk Southern. 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 that is currently occurring 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.

I urge you to give the application full and fair consideration. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Fetterman  
United States Senator