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May 7, 2024

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

RE: Port CONNECT: Creating Overland Connections to Expand Capacity and Throughout Project

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing to lend my strong support for a planning grant submitted by the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PhilaPort) through the "Port Infrastructure Development Program" (PIDP) discretionary grant fund program. If awarded, funding will be used to develop a critical connector route for overweight and special haul trucks traveling between the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal and The Bellwether District, a 1300-acre logistics, e-commerce, and innovation hub that is being developed near the Port in South Philadelphia.

If funded, this investment could significantly improve the flow of commerce between two vital economic hubs in Philadelphia. Additionally, the proposed connector route will support more than \$4 billion in private investment that is being made at The Bellwether District. Given the development of Bellwether and the continued growth at the Port, Navy Yard, and Stadium District, it will be important to study how to move materials and equipment safely and efficiently between PhilaPort and The Bellwether District. Doing so will accelerate economic development and job creation in this growing area of the city.

Specifically, this project will study and develop improvements along potential haul routes. Additionally, it will assess upgrades for the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal gate to minimize disruptions during construction and future operational growth.

Investing in the Port of Philadelphia's grant application will support its goal to meet the current and future demands of the containerized cargo industry. The Port already employs hundreds of area residents in family-sustaining jobs and is expected to experience significant future growth.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Fiedler".

Elizabeth Fiedler
Pennsylvania State Representative, 184th Legislative District