

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

I write in support of Philadelphia Regional Port Authority's (PhilaPort) application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) program. This funding would support the "Southeast Pennsylvania Multimodal Freight Optimization Plan," which will help plan and design critical freight connections in South Philadelphia, including the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, the Navy Yard, and The Bellwether District.

In the last few years, South Philadelphia has attracted major private investment through the redevelopment of The Bellwether District, a hub for logistics, e-commerce, and manufacturing, along with recent investments by Hanwha at the Philadelphia Shipyard. These private investments will allow southeastern Pennsylvania to build on its shipbuilding and manufacturing legacy, but federal investment in these efforts is crucial to ensure that these projects succeed and that these communities, and the nation, fully realize their benefits.

By improving multimodal freight connections, addressing last-mile challenges, and prioritizing safety and state-of-good-repair investments, this project will strengthen a key East Coast port. It also aligns with a core Administration commitment to rebuilding and restoring America's manufacturing strength and maritime dominance, and it's a clear example of how federal investment can work with private industry to deliver for American workers and our economy.

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, appearing to be "John Fetterman", written in a cursive style.

John Fetterman
United States Senator