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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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February 20, 2026

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

RE: Southeast Pennsylvania Multimodal Freight Optimization Plan

Dear Secretary Duffy:

As the U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 5th Congressional District, I write to express my strong support for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority (PhilaPort)'s application to the U.S. Department of Transportation's FY 2026 Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program. This \$3.456 million request will support the planning and design of critical multimodal freight connections among major employment and logistics centers in South Philadelphia, including the Packer Avenue Marine Terminal, the Navy Yard, and The Bellwether District, which are all located within my district.

South Philadelphia is experiencing significant commercial and industrial growth and attracting unprecedented private investment. The redevelopment of The Bellwether District into a major logistics and manufacturing hub, along with the recent multi-billion-dollar investment by Hanwha at the Philadelphia Shipyard, demonstrates strong confidence in our region's maritime and industrial future. These projects bring the promise of thousands of family-sustaining, union jobs and long-term economic opportunity for workers across Southeast Pennsylvania.

To ensure these investments benefit both workers and surrounding communities, our infrastructure must keep pace. Rising freight volumes and increased commercial activity will place new demands on aging roadways and transportation networks. Without proactive planning, bottlenecks and congestion will create safety risks, limit economic growth, and negatively impact nearby neighborhoods.

This BUILD-funded planning effort represents a responsible, forward-looking approach that leverages significant private capital. By strengthening multimodal freight connectivity, addressing last-mile challenges, and prioritizing safety and state-of-good-repair improvements, the project will improve the movement of goods while protecting community quality of life. It will also help ensure that growth at this key East Coast port supports resilient domestic supply chains and expands access to good-paying jobs.

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Strategic federal investment in freight infrastructure is critical to catalyze private investment, modernize critical assets, and ensure that economic growth translates into tangible benefits for working families. I strongly support this application and urge the U.S. Department of Transportation to give it full and fair consideration.

Thank you for your attention to this important project for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress